

STARS AND STRIPES®

**Top-ranked
Wake Forest
routed by Illinois**

Page 27

Illinois' James
Augustine, front,
and Wake Forest's
Eric Williams



**Stars and Stripes
now printing
in Afghanistan**

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**Report: Giambi
told grand jury that
he used steroids**

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Yankees' Jason Giambi

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2004

U.S. Embassy bans workers from Baghdad airport road

Highway site of recent attacks; mortar strikes hit capital Page 3



A wait gets longer

Families of
66th Transportation
Company react
to news of unit's
extended deployment

Page 6

Ulrike Reinhardt and her son, Noah, listen to Wednesday's announcement in Kaiserslautern, Germany, that the 66th Transportation Company will not return from Iraq until March, the result of a two-month tour extension. The extension, which includes Sgt. Philip Brown, Reinhardt's husband and Noah's father, is part of a plan to increase troop levels in Iraq during the country's Jan. 30 election.

BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

War on terrorism

Alkabar court-martial: A sergeant's admission that he rolled grenades into the tents of sleeping soldiers in Kuwait last year will be admissible when he goes on trial in the attack, a judge at Fort Bragg, N.C., ruled Thursday.

The ruling came at a pretrial hearing for Sgt. Hasan Akbar, 33, of the 101st Airborne Division. A statement he made immediately after the attack was admitted as evidence but some later statements were disallowed by the military judge, Col. Stephen Henley. Henley also granted Akbar's lawyers a delay in his trial until April 5 so they could gather more documentation for an insanity defense. The court-martial had been set for Feb. 15.

Moussaoui trial: A Jordanian man who claims he was Osama bin Laden's bodyguard was questioned by U.S. officials who are considering having him testify at the Virginia trial of terror suspect Zacarias Moussaoui, the man's attorney said Thursday.

Shadi Abdallah, 28, sentenced last November to four years in prison for helping plan terror attacks in Germany, was granted early release last month after serving more than half the time, including in pretrial custody.

Abdallah is now in the country's witness protection program, but Germany allowed U.S. prosecutors to talk with him for three days this week as they consider whether to use him as a witness in the Moussaoui trial.

U.S. soldier killed: An American soldier was fatally injured when a Humvee vehicle rolled over in Kabul, Afghanistan, while another was slightly hurt by a bomb, the military said Thursday.

The Humvee accidentally overturned during a routine security patrol Wednesday evening in Paktia province, a military statement said.

The second soldier, hurt when a home-made bomb hit a U.S. convoy patrolling near Asadabad in eastern Kunar province, was treated and returned to duty, the military said.

Hassan kidnapping: A mutilated body found in Iraq is not that of kidnapped aid worker Margaret Hassan, the British government said Wednesday. But the Foreign Office said it continued to believe Hassan had been murdered, although the evidence was not conclusive.

The Foreign Office said dental tests conducted in the United States showed the body of a woman of Western appearance, found in Iraq last month by U.S. Marines, was not Hassan.

The Iraq director of the aid group CARE International, Hassan, 39, was abducted on her way to work in Baghdad on Oct. 19. On Nov. 16, the Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera said it had received a video showing the execution of a female hostage identified as Hassan.

World

Haiti violence: U.N. peacekeeping forces circled Haiti's capital Thursday, hours after at least 11 people were killed and scores wounded in violence that marred Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit with Haitian leaders aimed at stopping the country's bloodshed.

Peacekeepers stood guard around the nation's penitentiary, where inmates rioted Wednesday night, leaving seven dead. Prisoners armed with knives and rocks tried to break free as gunmen opened fire, said national prison director Frimbert Pierre. Pierre said the violence was in reaction to leaked information that prison authorities



Congo unrest: Congolese soldiers guard a government official's Thursday house in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo. U.N. air and ground patrols have photographed freshly made encampments and unidentified well-equipped troops in east Congo, U.N. officials said Thursday, bolstering suspicions, still unconfirmed, that Rwanda is making good on its threat to send troops into its larger, weaker neighbor. U.N. officials say they have yet to conclusively determine any Rwandan troop presence in Congo — a finding that would confirm a Rwanda violation of central African peace accords and leave the international community with the difficult decision of how to react.

planned to transfer some inmates.

U.S. woman's Peru conviction: The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has upheld the conviction of an American woman imprisoned in Peru for terrorist collaboration with Marxist guerrillas, President Alejandro Toledo confirmed Thursday. When asked to comment on news reports of the ruling about Lori Berenson, Toledo told Radioprogramas radio that the court members "have ratified the sentence and I once again salute the court members."

The court, which is affiliated with the Organization of American States, last week denied Berenson's appeal and 20-year sentence.

Indonesia terror trial: The bombing last year of the J.W. Marriott hotel in Indonesia's capital was inspired by Osama bin Laden, a militant who was convicted in the attack said Thursday.

"I met with Osama bin Laden frequently in Afghanistan and heard him speak about waging war against America and its allies," Mohammad Rais said in testimony in the trial of alleged terrorist leader Abu Bakar Bashir. "We saw the Marriott attack as a message from Osama bin Laden," he said. Bashir, an Islamic cleric, has been charged with heading al-Qaida's alleged affiliate in Southeast Asia, Jemaah Islamiyah, and with inciting followers to take part in the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, and the Marriott attack that killed 12.

Nation

Lotto winner arrested: A man who won a record \$315 million in the Powerball lottery was taken to jail on charges of drunken driving and carrying a pistol, authorities said.

Jack Whittaker, 57, was arrested Tuesday night after his Hummer struck a concrete median on the West Virginia Turnpike near Beckley.

Troopers also said they found a small pistol in Whittaker's boot and he was carrying \$117,000. He was released after he was arraigned and posted \$1,700 bail. Besides the DUI and weapons charges, he was charged with failure to maintain control of his vehicle and failure to submit to a breath test.

Right-to-die case: Florida Governor Jeb

Bush went to the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday in a bid to keep a severely brain-damaged woman alive over her husband's objections.

At issue is whether Bush overstepped his authority when he pushed through the Legislature a law in 2003 that allowed him to have Terri Schiavo's feeding tube reinserted. Six days earlier, her husband had the tube removed with a judge's approval.

Election indictment: President Bush's former New England campaign chairman says he will fight a federal indictment in the jamming of get-out-the-vote phone lines Election Day 2002 in New Hampshire.

"I am saddened to learn that this action has been taken against me," James Tobin said Wednesday in a statement. "I have great respect for the justice system and plan to fight back to clear my name."

New Hampshire Democrats, who have filed a lawsuit over the jamming, had accused Tobin in October of involvement in the jamming. Tobin, 44, stepped down Oct. 15, but denied involvement at the time.

Los Alamos management: Stung by security lapses at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the government will consider business and management ability as much as scientific expertise when selecting a new manager for the facility.

Los Alamos has been managed by the University of California since the lab's creation as a top-secret World War II project to develop the atomic bomb. But problems, including missing computer drives and sloppy facility procedures, led the department for the first time to call for an open bidding process last year.

Robert Blake trial: A jury of seven men and five women was selected Wednesday to decide whether actor Robert Blake murdered his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley.

The panel was selected and sworn in after a prosecutor and defense attorney used numerous challenges to remove potential jurors from the jury box. They did not have to state a reason for the peremptory challenges. Six alternate jurors, three women and three men, also were chosen.

The panel was ordered to return Monday morning for opening statements.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Mortar rounds strike central Baghdad

U.S. Embassy tells workers they can't use airport road

BY NICK WADHAMS

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents killed an American soldier in the restive city of Mosul and mortar strikes pummeled central Baghdad on Thursday, while the U.S. Embassy barred employees from the highway leading to the airport after failing to stop attackers from targeting foreigners who travel the dangerous road.

Despite the continued violence, a top Iraqi official insisted the security situation had improved since U.S. forces scattered insurgents in the Sunni city of Fallujah last month in preparation for elections set for Jan. 30.

The U.S. government has announced it is raising troop strength in Iraq to its highest level of the war to secure the election.

While Iraq's Kurds and majority Shiites back the elections, Sunni groups have demanded a postponement because of the poor security. President George W. Bush dismissed those calls Thursday, insisting that Iraq's elections must not be delayed.

The American soldier was on a U.S. Iraqi patrol in eastern Mosul when the attack occurred, Lt. Col. Paul Higgins said. He said two Iraqi commandos were also wounded.

Hastings also said Iraqi and U.S. forces discovered 44 more unidentified bodies in different areas in Mosul on Thursday. He said there were also reports of five more bodies picked up by family members. That brings to at least 66 the number of bodies — many of them believed members of Iraqi security forces — since Nov. 18.

Mosul's police force disintegrated during an insurgent uprising last month, forcing the U.S. command to divert troops from the offensive in Fallujah.



A column of smoke rises after several mortar rounds exploded in central Baghdad on Thursday, including two in the Green Zone, the enclave that houses Iraq's interim administration and several foreign embassies. At least one person was killed.

A witness in Mosul, Iraq's third largest city with about 1 million people, said he saw three bodies dumped in a western neighborhood, two of them with notes tucked in their undershirts that identified them as members of the Iraqi National Guard. They had several gunshot wounds to their heads and bodies. Insurgents have repeatedly targeted Iraqi police and soldiers, who are seen as cooperating with U.S. forces.

Also Thursday, attackers launched at least five mortars in central Baghdad, including two that crashed into the Green Zone, the compound that houses Iraq's interim administration and U.S. diplomatic missions.

One round struck near a mobile phone office in Baghdad's Arsat neighborhood, killing two civilians and wounding five, U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. James Hutton said.

U.S. forces have been helpless to stop insurgents from firing mortars into the heavily fortified area, a sharp reminder of how efforts to calm to the country ahead of the elections have been frustrated.

U.S. senators visiting Iraq on Thursday said they were pleased with President Bush's decision raising troop levels, but criticized him for not doing so earlier.

"We should have leveled with the American people in the beginning," Sen. Joseph Biden, a Democrat from Delaware, told reporters. "It was absolutely inevitable" that more troops would be needed.

A symbol of the Americans' struggle to restore security has been the airport highway. Attackers using car bombs and explosives have stymied U.S. efforts to protect the road, one of the country's most crucial yet also one of its most perilous.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,256 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 984 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one lower than the Defense Department's tally.

It's not unusual for the figures to differ slightly from day to day.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,118 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 875 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Sergio R. Diazvarela, 21, Lomita, Calif., died Nov. 24 in Ramadi, Iraq, when a bomb detonated near his patrol; assigned to 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Camp Howze, Korea.

■ Army Sgt. Christian P. Engeldrum, 39, New York; died Monday in Baghdad, Iraq, when his vehicle struck a bomb; assigned to the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, New York — Army Pfc. Wilfredo F. Urbina, 29, Baldwin, N.Y.; died Monday in Baghdad, Iraq, when his vehicle struck a bomb; assigned to the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, New York — Marine Lance Cpl. Blake A. Magayo, 20, Pearl City, Hawaii; killed Monday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Army Sgt. Michael A. Smith, 24, Camden, Ark.; died Friday at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., from injuries received in Baghdad, Iraq, on Nov. 7 from small arms fire; assigned to the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, Texarkana, Ark.

U.S. force in Iraq to grow by January to highest level of war

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With the insurgency still a threat to Iraq's planned elections, the U.S. force is about to expand to its highest level of the war, even higher than the initial invading force in March 2003.

The force will grow from 138,000 today to about 150,000 by mid-January, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

Extra troops are needed to bolster security before the national elections scheduled for Jan. 30. The increase in troop strength also underscores the fact that, despite enormous effort and cost, American commanders have yet to train and equip enough Iraqis for security duty.

Lt. Gen. Lance Smith, deputy commander of Central Command, which is responsible for U.S. military operations throughout the Middle East, told reporters at the Pentagon last month that the insurgents have managed

to intimidate many Iraqis into not cooperating with the Americans.

The expansion of the U.S. force also recalls assertions made by some Bush administration officials when the invasion was launched that although stabilizing the country would not be easy or cheap, it certainly would not require more U.S. troops than it took to topple Baghdad.

As it turns out, the post-invasion period has been far costlier in blood and treasure than almost anyone predicted. When President Bush declared major combat operations were over May 1, 2003, the United States had about 148,000 troops in Iraq — slightly more than when the war began two months earlier and more than were there when Baghdad fell in early April.

The Pentagon said Wednesday that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld approved a plan to send 1,500 soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, N.C., to Iraq this month and to extend by 60 days the combat tours of about 10,400 soldiers

and Marines in Iraq who were to come home in January.

Most of those whose tours are being extended will serve two months longer than the 12-month tours the Army set as a standard to avoid putting too much stress on troops and their families.

The 12,000-troop increase is to last only until March, but it says much about the strength and resiliency of an insurgency that U.S. military planners did not foresee even a year ago, when they were focused on capturing deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

One unit, the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division, is being extended for the second time. Its soldiers originally were told they would be going home in November at the end of a 10-month assignment, but in October they got the news they would remain until mid-January. Now they are being extended until mid-March.

Rumsfeld's decision also applies to about 4,400 troops of the 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division. They will stay until mid-March.



Troops with the Army National Guard's 116th Combat Brigade shake hands with Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne while boarding an airplane in Alexandria, La., on Wednesday. The soldiers are being deployed to Iraq. The U.S. force will grow to about 150,000 by mid-January, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

A career with a bang

Anaconda open house seeks recruits for ordnance disposal assignments

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — There may be no better place to recruit soldiers into a job that involves blowing up things than Iraq, where things tend to blow up with great regularity.

The 716th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) from Fort Richardson, Alaska, held an open house recently for about 30 soldiers to explain their specialty.

"Some people think we're lunatics," Sgt. Maj. Robert Hockstetter told the attendees.

But during the next 90 minutes, the soldiers learned that EOD troops are anything but lunatics. They are professional soldiers who know a lot about everything from "firecrackers to nukes," in Hockstetter's words.

They put their lives on the line frequently and succeeded in a career where many wash out of the training.

Sgt. Daniel Brunick, an EOD troop since July, said he started his class with 25 people at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., where all services train EOD troops.

"I graduated with eight," he said.

Hockstetter, who has spent 18 of his 23 active-duty years in EOD, recited the long list of requirements for membership in the fraternity, including a lack of an allergy to explosives and normal color vision, in case one is asked to cut the red wire, not the blue one.

Chastrophic troops need not apply, either. The bomb suit that is sometimes worn can be a bit confining.

Hockstetter said the Army needs more EOD troops because the service is standing up a new group and two battalions next year. Such recruiting efforts are done frequently in the States, he said after the open house, but to his knowledge, had not been done in Iraq.

"The companies need to fill

their ranks," he said. "We find the best way to do that is with in-service recruitment."

Soldiers, he said, have a better success rate in the yearlong training than people recruited from civilian ranks.

Hockstetter held nothing back in his presentation.

"Our ops tempo is phenomenal," he told the soldiers.

In a three-year assignment, an EOD soldier will likely see duty in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq. Plus, the Army EOD folks help civilian law enforcement in the States, including the Secret Service and FBI.

"It's nonstop," he said. In Iraq, his unit has answered more than 300 calls since arriving in mid-October, an average of seven or eight a day, everything from roadside bombs to unexploded ordnance fired onto the base. The unit has 19 people at the base, including support personnel.

The busy schedule didn't seem to bother Sgt. Corey Wybourn, a vehicle mechanic with the 29th



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Corey Wybourn of the 29th Signal Battalion tries on a bomb suit with the help of Sgt. Daniel Brunick of the 716th Ordnance Company (EOD). The EOD unit held an open house Saturday at LSA Anaconda, Iraq, for anyone interested in becoming an EOD specialist. About 30 soldiers, including Wybourn, attended.

Signal Battalion, who attended the open house.

"I just want to do something different, something challenging, that takes me places," he said. "I like to go, go, go. I don't like to sit around and be bored."

Spc. Allen Smith, also of the 29th Signal Battalion, agreed. "It's [closer] to the action. I want something high-speed," he said, promising to begin making the move as soon as he returns to Fort Lewis, Wash.

Brunick, who joined the EOD team after six years in the medical logistics field, said he does not regret changing fields.

"Not one second," he said.

There is danger, Brunick said,

as he pointed at a table filled with explosive devices found around LSA Anaconda. And one person is not always going to know everything about every kind of bomb.

Plus, he said, the insurgents are coming up with many tricks, using cell phones and car alarms, for example, to set off the bombs. But the challenge, he said, is in keeping up with the bad guys.

Hockstetter said he was pleased with the turnout for a first-time event at the base. Asked how many he hoped would become EOD members, he said, "I would be happy with one good-quality soldier."

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U.S. ambassador offers olive branch to Taliban militants

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan appealed to Taliban militants on Thursday to make peace with American forces and respect the victory of Hamid Karzai in the country's first presidential election.

Zalmay Khalilzad promised "non-criminal" supporters of the former hardline regime that neither U.S. nor Afghan forces would attack or seize them if they give up their three-year insurgency.

Afghan and U.S. officials have called repeatedly on anti-government factions, including the Taliban, that are still fighting and those who fled the country to help rebuild the country as a moderate Islamic republic.

But the offers have usually been vague and have drawn strong opposition from anti-Taliban leaders who helped the United States drive out the hardline Taliban in 2001, but could see their influence diluted in Karzai's new government.

Khalilzad said he was working with Karzai's Washington-backed government on a full-blown recon-

ciliation plan that could be expanded to include Afghans exiled by earlier conflicts.

"There's no need to fight, to stay in the mountains; Afghanistan has entered a new stage," Khalilzad told reporters at a news conference in the Afghan capital, Kabul. "It's time for this to end."

Only an estimated 100-150 leaders and those associated with al-Qaida are considered ineligible for the offer.

Officials say many members of the Pashtun-dominated militia have contacted them seeking assurances they will not be thrown into prison if they return to their villages.

There has been speculation that moderate, Taliban-linked figures could resurface in the Cabinet, which is expected to be announced shortly after Karzai's inauguration next week.

But few appear to have taken the plunge, and violence has continued since Karzai won a majority in the Oct. 9 presidential election, with aid workers and civilians as well as U.S. and Afghan soldiers among the victims.

Lt. Gen. Eric Olson, the operational commander of American forces here, said on Tuesday that



U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad speaks during a press conference at the American Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday. Khalilzad appealed to Taliban militants to make peace with American forces. He promised "non-criminal" supporters would not be attacked or seized if they gave up the insurgency.

no more than six fighters in two villages had taken up the military's version of the "truce" so far.

"We're offering them the opportunity to come to us, essentially swear allegiance to the central government and then what we guarantee we won't do is run an operation against them or take them prisoner," he said in an interview.

"We're promoting that in anti-

cession that once a few start to come over, it may be contagious," he said.

Olson said a priority for American officials was how to gradually hand over control of more of the country to the Afghan government, for which it is training a new national army.

But he also said he didn't expect his 18,000-strong force helping militants in the south and east of the country to shrink for at least another year.

3 GIs charged in slaying of Iraqi general face hearing

The Associated Press

FORT CARSON, Colo. — Three of the four U.S. soldiers accused of smothering an Iraqi general during an interrogation last fall are facing the possibility of court-martial.

That decision will be made during an Article 32 hearing — which is similar to a preliminary hearing in civilian court — set to begin Thursday.

The soldiers could get life in prison without parole if convicted in the Nov. 26 death of Maj. Gen. Abed Hamed Mowhoush, 57, at Qaim, Iraq. The U.S. Army said Mowhoush died of asphyxiation from chest compression and from being smothered.

Mowhoush was killed with an electrical cord, according to charging documents in the case, and a Pentagon report given to Congress in June reportedly says a soldier sat on Mowhoush as he was restrained inside a sleeping bag.

Chief Warrant Officers Jefferson Williams, Sgt. 1st Class William Sommer, Sgt. Jerry Loper and Lt. Michael Welsh are charged with murder and dereliction of duty.

Welsh's hearing will be held later, Fort Carson officials said.

All four soldiers were assigned to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment based at Fort Carson at the time of Mowhoush's death.

'd Fallujah all over again'

Despite casualties, Marines in major battle consider it a source of pride

By KATARINA KRATOVAC

The Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Maj. Rich Bourgeois says the image of a young Navy medical corpsman rushing to aid a mortally wounded Marine in Fallujah's notorious Joan district will be forever imprinted in his mind.

"In the middle of a firefight, there was this wounded Marine, his leg left blown off and just the femur sticking out," recounts Bourgeois, 41, of Malden, Mass. "And the young corpsman ran to his side, oblivious to the battle, applying the tourniquet."

More than 50 Marines have died since the Fallujah attack began Nov. 8, and skirmishes still take place in the city. Yet for some Marines, their performance in one of the major battles of the Iraq conflict is a source of pride.

"Fallujah is going to be right up there among the most successful battles in Iraq," said Maj. Tom Davis, 45, of St. Cloud, Minn. "It's where the rubber meets the road. That is where our heroes did their best."

Fighting in Fallujah and elsewhere in Iraq made November one of the bloodiest months for American forces since the war began in March 2003. At least 135 U.S. troops died in November — the same number as last April,

which had been the deadliest month of the conflict.

"Fallujah has been a life-changing event for many of the Marines, fighting in an environment that is just unfathomable to anyone outside," said Bourgeois, an explosives expert who retired from active duty two years ago, but was recalled this year.

During the Fallujah battle, he was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment to study enemy tactics and techniques.

Although the fighting was brutal, Bourgeois believes the Marines' morale was reinforced when they found evidence of atrocities committed by insurgents — including emaciated hostages chained to the wall and bodies of those killed execution-style.

"When we saw what the enemy did, what they were capable of doing, we were only more eager to do away with this pure evil," Bourgeois added. "Regardless of how many pockets of resistance are still out there, it will not sway our morale. Nothing can."

First Lt. Lyle Gilbert, a spokesman for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said morale is high in Fallujah — despite the ongoing fights.

"Sure, the Marines are engaging every day. Fallujah is not as cleared as everyone would

like it to be," he said. "Some insurgents still lie there in waiting. But we will chase them."

Lt. Col. Dan Wilson said that although major resistance collapsed two weeks ago, Fallujah remains a very dangerous place for American troops because some insurgents are still holding out or have slipped back into the city.

"One minute they [Marines] might be handing out emergency supplies and a couple of steps away, they might be getting shot at by insurgents who are still hiding in some damaged structure," Wilson said.

Some of the Marines echoed those concerns as they patrol Fallujah, its empty streets an apocalyptic landscape of bombed out buildings and debris.

"There is always a moment of uncertainty that some Iraqi would be passing by, giving us the thumbs up and the next minute he'd fire an AK-47 at us," said Sgt. Mike Wagner, 27, of St. Louis.

"That you know that your buddy is there, watching your back. If it weren't for my buddies, I wouldn't be here."

Sgt. Wayne Doyle, 23, of Neversink, N.Y., said he naturally misses home. "But I'd much rather be here with my Marines," he said. "And I'd do Fallujah all over again."

Red Cross plans aid mission to Fallujah

By JONATHAN FOWLER

The Associated Press

GENEVA — The international Red Cross said Thursday it plans "in coming days" to send a relief mission to Fallujah, where U.S.-led forces are battling Iraqi insurgents.

Ahmed Rawi, spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said the humanitarian agency wants to deliver aid and assess what else is needed.

"We have a team ready to go but it depends on the situation there," Rawi said in a telephone interview from Baghdad.

Most of Fallujah's 300,000 people are believed to have fled the city during the early days of the U.S.-led assault to root out insurgents, which started Nov. 8. Thousands of families have headed to neighboring towns and are receiving ICRC help, Rawi said. "No one knows exactly how many civilians are still inside," he said.

The intensity of fighting has dropped as American forces spread operations to other parts of Iraq. But Fallujah still remains highly dangerous for aid workers and the people they want to help, he said.

"We intend to enter Fallujah in coming days. We are still working on it," said Rawi. "Of course we are taking into consideration the security situation inside Fallujah. We also want to guarantee the safety of our staff."

The ICRC, which is mandated under the Geneva Conventions to care for the wounded and other victims of war, rejects having military escorts because it wants to demonstrate its independence in conflict zones worldwide.

On Nov. 22, the Iraqi Red Crescent — a sister organization of the ICRC — was the first independent aid organization to carry medical supplies and other relief to Fallujah since the start of the offensive. Earlier this week, the Red Crescent set up an aid center in the city.

On Monday, ICRC officials said they might send a team working in the center. Rawi said the number has now risen to 120.

Rawi said Fallujah's remaining residents "face real difficulties in moving and in receiving the [Red Crescent] office. That's the problem." Medical staff also have difficulty moving around, he added.

Rawi said relief at a tent world Wednesday at the Fallujah General Hospital, which is across the Euphrates River from the main part of the city, remains ready to receive wounded people but has seen none.

White knuckles, high speed on 'RPG Alley'

By ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The driver barreled down the road from Baghdad International Airport, his eyes darting from side to side for signs of trouble. A few hundred yards ahead, a convoy of U.S. contractors stopped on an overpass.

Armed men jumped from the vehicles — weapons at the ready. Three vehicles from the Iraqi National Guard had been struck by rocket-propelled grenades and the contractors stopped to help. Fearing the gunmen may still be around, the driver and dozens of civilian cars and trucks crowded onto an exit road for a quick escape.

It is a scene repeated with alarming frequency along the white-knuckle 10-mile stretch of highway — known to U.S. troops as "RPG Alley" — which links the center of Baghdad with the airport on the western outskirts of the city.

The U.S. State Department has described the airport road as one of the most dangerous routes in Iraq, and both the U.S. and the American embassies have banned their diplomats from using it because of the high risk of attack. The U.S. Embassy announced its ban Thursday.

The situation on the airport road has become a metaphor for the entire Iraq mission. More than 18 months after the fall of Saddam Hussein, the war in Iraq is a powerful military cannot guarantee the safety of Iraqis, foreigners and its own troops who use one of the country's most important routes.

In the latest attack, three people were injured Wednesday when a "vehicle-borne improvised explosive device" detonated as several security vehicles, favored by U.S. and other Western security contractors, were passing by.



U.S. soldiers examine the scene after a military truck was damaged in suicide car bomber attack on Baghdad's airport highway Tuesday. The highway linking Baghdad to the international airport is considered one of the most dangerous roads in Iraq.

One of the vehicles lay overturned in the middle of the road as U.S. troops sealed off the area and two helicopters arrived to evacuate casualties.

On Nov. 8, the Iraqi Interior Ministry reported that two SUVs were caught in an explosion as a convoy traveled through the Amiriyah district on the airport road. U.S. officials released no details of the attack.

The next day, however, CBS and NBC reported that one of those in the convoy was Charles Duelfer, who conducted the fruitless search of Iraq for weapons of mass destruction. Duelfer escaped injury but both networks reported that two of his bodyguards were killed.

Mindful of the risks, drivers have developed their own set of tricks when using the road — chief among them, stay off as

much of the route as possible. Those traveling between the airport and the center of the city prefer to maneuver through other streets to minimize their time on the airport road.

Rule Number Two: Drive as fast as possible. Weave around slower-moving vehicles and, if possible, don't get stuck in a traffic jam.

And at all costs, avoid tailing American military vehicles.

Despite the increasing dangers, the airport road has taken on greater importance for foreign diplomats, journalists and Iraqis because the dreadful security situation elsewhere precludes using other routes into and out of the country.

The main highways west to Jordan and Syria are even more dangerous because of armed insurgents around Ramadi and Fallujah

who have kidnapped and beheaded both Iraqi and foreign hostages.

The road south toward Karbala and Najaf passes through a string of insurgent-controlled towns and cities dubbed "the triangle of death" because of the large number of foreigners and Iraqi Shiite Muslims waylaid over the last year.

Another road to the southeast through Kut and on to Basra is considered safer — but only relatively — because of the route approach Amarah, it passes through an area notorious for carjackings.

The highway north toward Mosul, known to the U.S. military as Highway One, passes through six insurgency-plagued cities as Samarra, Tikrit and Beiji. And the U.S. military describes the situation in Mosul as "tenuous."

That leaves the airport as the "safest" way out of Baghdad.

'They've got to do what they've got to do'

Some 66th Transportation Company families shaken, but others prepared for GI's extended Iraq deployment

BY BEN MURRAY
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Christmas will come in March for Ann Rieger and her four daughters.

The family had already put off the event until January, but now they have to wait until early spring.

"I already told the kids we're not having Christmas until Dad comes home," Rieger said.

The Riegers are among the families waiting for members of the 66th Transportation Company to return to Germany after the unit's yearlong deployment to Iraq. But Army officials announced Wednesday that those 156 soldiers are among thousands of troops being extended downrange for 60 days to bolster U.S. forces for Iraq's Jan. 30 elections. The 66th is the only Europe-based unit to be extended.

Family members were told of the extension Wednesday at a meeting at Kiebler Casern. Under the DOD plan, the unit will spend 33 of those 60 days at its current location, Forward Operating Base

Speicher, north of Baghdad.

"They're saying on the 5th of March, they'll start conveying down to [Kuwait], and then they think it could take up to two weeks," to process out of the staging area, Col. Susan Sowers, commander of the 37th Transportation Command, told about 15 wives and several children at Wednesday's meeting.

"In my mind, it looks like the third week in March, we could start to see our folks coming home," she said.

While the news visibly shook some, many said they were prepared for the extension after hearing about it from their husbands.

"It's hard news, but they've got to do what they've got to do," said Marlene Sanchez, whose husband, Spc. Edward Sanchez, is a truck driver. Sanchez said she spoke with her husband Tuesday, when he warned her of the possible extension.

Others took the news harder. "I was so upset I was shaking," said Ulrike Reinhardt, a mother of Philip Brown. She said the delay of her husband's unit — which suf-

fered two deaths in an attack in August and has had 11 troops wounded — also means the extension of her apprehension.

"It's more days on the road, more targets for bombs," Reinhardt said. "More days of anxiety for me."

Army officials had a dozen support personnel on hand Wednesday to offer legal, logistical and emotional assistance to family members. Questions from the spouses generally revolved around paperwork, payment and power of attorney details associated with the delay.

One detail that irked family members about the extension is that it does not start until Jan. 31, 2005 — a week after the company's one-year anniversary at Forward Operating Base Speicher.

"What they're doing now, they're saying, 'You came in January, the end of January is your time,'" Sowers said. "They would say the one year mark is 31 January, that's the math that they're using downrange."

Sowers said that pushing the extension's start date past the one-year mark is a move by the



BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

Col. Susan Sowers, commander of the 37th Transportation Command, informs family members of the 66th Transportation Company Wednesday during a meeting at Kiebler Casern in Kaiserslautern, Germany, that the unit has received a two-month deployment extension in central Iraq.

Army to get a few extra days out of an experienced unit.

"They're trying to take some days where they can get some," she said.

No matter how long it takes from the 66th to come home, however,

Rieger said her children are all right with waiting for Christmas if it means they can celebrate it with their father.

"They know how important it is to have that," she said.

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Troops downrange receive Hollywood delivery

'Operation: Take a Soldier to the Movies' sends movies, snacks to deployed troops

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

Bernard Hintzke and his wife Kathy long ago started a tradition of taking their four sons to the movies on Thanksgiving.

With his youngest son, Spc. Adam Hintzke, deployed to Iraq with the 601st Aviation Support Battalion, the father decided that this year he would send the movie to Adam to keep the Thanksgiving tradition alive.

That simple plan has grown into putting movies into the hands of troops from about 10 Army and Marine units downrange.

With Operation: Take a Soldier to the Movies, Bernard Hintzke and his support team have sent more than 1,600 movies to soldiers and Marines deployed to Iraq.

"To date, we have been able to put together movie packages for every unit that has contacted us and asked to be included in the project," Hintzke wrote in an e-mail. "The number of movie packages sent to the troops to date is 1,680. A little idea that started with our son who is in Iraq has grown to this. We now have someone representing Operation: Take a Soldier to the Movies at Fort Hood, Texas."

He and his team of volunteers in West Hills, Wis., turned to members of their community for donations of movies and snacks.

"We had hoped that the people in our area would like to help again like they did for the [1st Infantry Division] Christmas in



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

Capt. Mellanie Merritt, 601st Aviation Support Battalion rear detachment commander, speaks with Sgt. William Rigby, 1st Squadron, 4th Armored Cavalry Regiment, on Nov. 24 at Würzburg Hospital's Victory Ward. Movies and snacks were delivered to injured 1st Infantry Division soldiers at the hospital as part of the Operation: Take a Soldier to the Movies program.

July project, by sending a movie package to the troops on Thanksgiving Day as a way of saying "thank you for your service to our country," Bernard Hintzke wrote.

But Kathy Hintzke's cousin, who works in a public relations firm, created the organization's Web site (www.soldiertomov-

ies.org) and sent a press release to national media sources.

The organization now gets donations from people and schools all over the United States, the father wrote.

He collects movies, snacks and the popcorn boxes in which they are distributed, and sends them to the 601st Aviation Support Battalion rear detachment, based in Katterbach, Germany, according to Capt. Mellanie Merritt, rear detachment commander.

Other donations come directly from people who have visited the Web site.

"At least one day a week, I pick up about 150 boxes from the post office," said Pam Lindenmeyer, from the unit's FRG, who spearheads packing the boxes to be sent downrange. "[Other] days we get 10 boxes, some days it will be 50."

"We pick them up every day to make things easier in the post office, and if we are sending out more than four large boxes we call them ahead of time to see if it's OK to send them all at once."

Lindenmeyer and volunteers from the Katterbach community assemble the popcorn boxes and pack them with movies and snacks to send downrange.

"We've taken care of the 601st, because that is who the program was started for," Merritt said. "So many other units have come forward and asked for the movies, too, that we are keeping pretty busy. This is a huge operation, and we've had a lot of support from our volunteers."

Merritt and others from the Family Readiness Group also delivered movie packages to injured troops at Victory Ward at Würzburg hospital. Some packages also went to wounded troops at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Some of the donors send movies and snacks for the troops, but nearly all send letters accompanying their donation,

Merritt said.

"These are really high-quality, top-notch movies that people are sending," Merritt said. "But the coolest piece of it all is the letters that people send to the soldiers. We have to go through all of this and package everything, and we read the letters from people thanking the soldiers for their service to our country, and it really tugs at the heartstrings."

And the soldiers appreciate the support.

"My husband [Maj. Victor Lindenmeyer, commander, Company A, 601st ASB] called me on Thanksgiving and said this was the highest boost in morale all year," Lindenmeyer said. "He's a very tough guy, and there was so much emotion in his voice. The guys all missed home, it was Thanksgiving."

"This wasn't just 10 guys getting a package, everyone in the company got one. Some of the guys were upset because there was no return address to write a letter of thanks, but they appreciated the support — like somebody on 4 Apple Lane thought about you today."

E-mail Rick Emert at: emerr@mail.stripes.osd.mil

How to donate

Items to donate: new or used DVD movies, microwave popcorn, packets of pre-sweetened drink mix and assortments of movie theater-style candy. A letter or photo can also be included.

Mail to:

Operation: Take a Soldier to the Movies

Pam Lindenmeyer

C/O 601st ASB

CMR 454 Box 2536

AF0 AE 09250

AF tries to better integrate active, reserve units

By LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force announced six new U.S.-based initiatives Wednesday that will give the Air Force faster access to skilled personnel in wartime and eventually reduce the number of deployments for airmen, service officials said.

Dubbed "Future Total Force," the actions will involve active, reserve and Air National Guard units in Arizona, Vermont, Virginia, Utah, Texas, New York and Nevada, but not overseas installations or deployed airmen, according to Air Force spokesman Capt. Glen Roberts.

But "if these initiatives work, [they] will reduce the need for mobilizations down the

road," Roberts said in a Wednesday telephone interview.

However, reducing deployments "is a secondary effect ... not the principal reason we're doing this," according to Lt. Gen. Stephen Wood, the Air Force's Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs.

Instead, service officials are making the changes "so that the Air Force can have a greater capability to be a full partner in a joint warfighting team," Wood said Wednesday.

The initiatives focus on mixing active-duty with reserve personnel, who in the Air Force tend to stay in their units for long periods of time, officials said.

The low turnover rates in the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard mean that many of the service's most senior fliers

and other personnel are in the reserve components, not the active wings.

The point of many of the initiatives is to test whether mixing the reserve and active communities more will help "rebalance" these experience levels, Wood said.

Deployments would be eventually be reduced because once reserve and active units are better integrated, with the help of new technologies the Air Force would have more of an ability to "reach back" and tap the expertise of reservists on a more regular basis, "without putting them through the pressures or the stress of the mobilization process," Wood said.

The initiatives include the integration of a reserve wing, Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Fighter Wing in Richmond, Va., with an active-duty 1st Fighter Wing

at Langley Air Force Base, Va., to fly the new F/A-22 fighter jet; stationing active duty personnel at Vermont's 158th Fighter Wing; and combining the Air Force Reserve's 419th Fighter Wing with the active duty's 388th Fighter Wing, both of which are at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and fly the F-16 fighter.

The other efforts include allowing members of the Texas and Arizona Air National Guards to operate the Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), which until now has been the province of active-duty units; working with the Air Force Center at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

Curator of 1st AD museum brings it into digital future

By TERRY BOYD
Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — As the battlefield has shifted from Concord to the latest anti-insurgencies, military museums and their curators have been there to document it all. At the 1st Armored Division Museum in Baumholder, new curator Steve Ruhnke is writing the next chapter in the division's history.

Writing, though, isn't exactly the term — more like digitizing the future.

Ruhnke hopes to open the Operation Iraqi Freedom gallery next spring, with some new twists on old Army traditions. Instead of the soldier's letter home, 1st AD soldiers already have donated digital material including video clips and still photos that will help tell the story of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the division's second deployment to Iraq since it moved to Germany in 1971.

One of the more unusual donations is an audio recording of the crew of the M-3A2 Bradley fighting vehicle in combat during the conventional ground war phase of the Iraq war, Ruhnke said.

One soldier donated a digital copy of his diary.

"It's kind of hard is that sometimes we don't see the historical significance today," Ruhnke said. But 100 years from now, historians will come to the museum searching for keys to understanding 21st-century military life just as they came to him at the cavalry museum, trying to piece together an accurate picture of the early days of the U.S. military.

Another complication is that curators have different standards than laymen for what they believe will be of interest to future generations.

U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C., where he's executive director.

What he doesn't need is one more AK-47 or even an old Iraqi tank found on the side of the road, Ruhnke said. What he does seek are artifacts — American and Iraqi — with documented provenance to specific units, specific places and specific battles that help document the 1st AD's role in OIF.

Ruhnke arrived in May as the new curator, replacing Dan Peterson, who transferred to the 101st Airborne Division Museum at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Ruhnke, a native of Junction City, Kan., has a degree in archaeology and anthropology from Kansas State University. Before coming to Germany, he had been assistant curator and exhibit specialist at the U.S. Cavalry Museum at Fort Riley, Kan., for 20 years.

An authority on American cavalry units and figures from his years at Fort Riley, Ruhnke says his new challenge is to get up to speed on the 1st AD.

His museum has a number of significant pieces including examples of some of the rarest American tanks and self-propelled howitzers, including a pre-World War II M2A3 Stuart tank.

"That one here came from China. Of all places, possibly an obsolete weapon the United States sold after World War II, Ruhnke said.

In addition to a dozen tanks, haltrucks and howitzers, about 10,000 artifacts, possibly an obsolete weapon the United States sold after World War II, Ruhnke said.

To tell the 1st AD's contemporary story, the Baumholder museum will add more modern interactive displays — such as allowing



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Steve Ruhnke is spending a lot of time around old tanks as he makes the transition from an exhibit specialist at the cavalry museum at Fort Riley, Kan., to head curator at the 1st Armored Division museum. But at Baumholder, the future is digital, Ruhnke says.

visitors to select from a number of audio and video clips — to its static displays of uniforms, weapons and, of course, armor through 60 years, Ruhnke said. In addition, he'd like to do more temporary exhibits highlighting the histories of different 1st AD battalions.

However, the museum is, along with Baumholder itself, on the bubble as the Pentagon plans to relocate the two forward-based divisions, the 1st AD and the Würzburg-based 1st Infantry Division to the United States.

The 1st AD museum is one of perhaps 50 military museums under the Center of Military History, Bigelow said. There are museums for most branches, such as the Patton Museum at Fort Knox,

Ky., for armor and the cavalry museum at Fort Riley, down to the regimental level, he said. Changes over the next decade, including plans to restructure forces overseas and the opening of the National Museum of the United States Army, schedule for 2009, will lead to changes at some military museums.

But most will survive, Bigelow said. The national museum is for honor and remembrance, while museums for divisions and branches, such as the 1st AD museum, are for training, education and outreach, he said.

"We try to put such museums where there is the greatest number of soldiers, but when soldiers move, sometimes there isn't a place to relocate."

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boyd@mail.stripes.osd.mil

Stripes now printing in Afghanistan

By PATRICK DICKSON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Stars and Stripes began printing newspapers in Afghanistan on Thursday, starting with a daily print run of 1,380 papers, and may expand its circulation after more tests are done.

The change means servicemembers serving in Afghanistan will see much fresher news — papers had seen delays of up to three weeks in the previous distribution system.

Stripes had been shipping newspapers to Afghanistan from its presses in Germany via Bahrain, where, at best, papers would take five days to get to Kabul, and often much longer to reach outlying areas through the military supply system.

Stripes Publisher Tom Kelsch sees it as a significant improvement for servicemembers there, and for the organization.

"For Stripes, it means we're better able to accomplish our mission to serve those servicemembers [deployed to Afghanistan]," Kelsch said.

The paper will be delivered daily in Kabul, Kandahar, Camp Phoenix (near Kabul) and Bagram Air Base. Papers will also be distributed via the military postal system to 10 other posts.

Readers will now be receiving the Middle East edition of Stripes, currently being tailored to audiences in Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar, rather than the Europe editions. Also included will be Sunday comics, which are actually in the Saturday edition.

Stripes currently prints about 60,000 copies of its Middle East edition at print sites in Baghdad, Kuwait and Qatar.

IN THE STATES

Rush taps Johanns for agriculture post

By DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Thursday selected Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns, a Republican attorney who grew up on an Iowa dairy farm, as secretary of Agriculture to oversee the nation's farm and food programs.

Bush said Johanns was "an experienced public servant from America's agricultural heartland" with a long record of being "a faithful friend to America's farmers and ranchers."

Johanns, 54, would succeed Ann M. Veneman, who recently announced her resignation despite saying earlier that she wanted to stay.

So far, seven of Bush's 15-member Cabinet have announced they would not be part of the second term. More are expected, and administration officials say Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson appears to be next.

Bush announced his intention to nominate the two-term governor in the Roosevelt Room of the White House.

The nomination, which requires Senate confirmation, reflects the administration's desire to focus heavily on farm trade over the next four years.

As his wife Stephanie looked on, Johanns thanked Bush for inviting him to serve, saying, "I have enormous respect for you."

"I look forward to advancing your rural agenda for the 21st century," Johanns said.

In Iowa and raised on a dairy farm, Johanns became a lawyer and served in county and city government before becoming mayor of Lincoln, Neb., in 1991. He won the governor's office in



Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns, left, speaks after President Bush announced that Johanns has his nominee for secretary of Agriculture, at the White House on Thursday.

1998 and in 2002 became the first Republican to win re-election in more than four decades.

"I'm very, very proud of my ag background," he said. "I do feel that these years on that dairy farm did much to define who I am as a person," Johanns said.

As governor, Johanns led a delegation of Nebraska's farm and business leaders on a trade mission to Japan, Taiwan, China, Singapore and a half dozen other countries.

Bush said that in his second term, he would put a high priority on helping farm families, including keeping taxes low and work-

ing to repeal the estate tax.

Bush praised Veneman, saying she had done a good job in dealing with agricultural issues, including fighting hunger, improvements in school nutrition programs, protecting forests and leading efforts "to prevent the spread of mad cow disease" when the nation's first case was reported a year ago.

Veneman presided during a period of unprecedented wariness about the safety of the nation's food supply. Weeks after the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Europe prompted Veneman to increase inspections and testing to prevent its arrival in the United States.

A look at the remaining Cabinet members

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A look at who's left in President Bush's Cabinet and their prospects for staying in in the next term:

■ **Defense Secretary** Donald H. Rumsfeld: Rumsfeld, 71, has not disclosed whether he intends to stay, but his aides have said repeatedly they have no indication he'll leave. They also said this week Rumsfeld had not discussed his future with the president. It is widely believed among Pentagon officials that Rumsfeld wants to remain, at least temporarily, to steer the military further in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to continue his efforts to fundamentally change the way the Defense Department operates.

■ **Treasury Secretary** John Snow: Snow, 65, a former chief at railroad giant CSX with a Ph.D. in economics, took over the Treasury Department in February. The White House recently called Snow a valuable member of the economics team but hasn't said whether it intends to keep him.

■ **Transportation Secretary** Norman Y. Mineta: Mineta, 73, the only Democrat in Bush's Cabinet, doesn't plan to step down in the immediate future but could leave once Congress passes the huge highway spending bill, aides say.

■ **Health and Human Services Secretary** Tommy Thompson, 63, has said he would not stay for a second Bush term and talked about get-

ting a high-paying job in the private sector.

■ **Interior Secretary** Gale Norton: Norton, 50, has expressed interest in keeping her job. She dismissed any notion she might return soon to Colorado to begin a campaign for governor or senator.

■ **Environmental Protection Agency Secretary** Mike Leavitt: Leavitt, 53, gave up his job as Utah governor to join the Cabinet last year. He says he likes the post and has much to be done to accomplish, but also has been mentioned as a possible successor to Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

■ **Veterans Affairs Secretary** Anthony Principi: Principi, 60, has been popular with veterans groups despite their dissatisfaction with VA funding levels. Principi has pushed for more money for veterans, worked to reduce long waits for care and to resolve benefits claims for older veterans. He's drawn some criticism for suspending health care enrollments for some veterans. It's unclear how long he will keep his job.

■ **Housing and Urban Development Secretary** Alphonso Jackson, 39, is a Bush friend from Texas who moved over HUD in March. He's expected to remain in the post.

■ **Labor Secretary** Elaine Chao: Chao, 41, is the first Asian-American woman appointed to a Cabinet post. Chao has said little publicly about her job plans other than she enjoys the post and serves at the pleasure of the president.

Frist's campaign fund can't cover loan after stock losses

The Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's campaign committee lost more than \$500,000 in the stock market since the 2000 election and could not cover a bank loan that came due in August, records showed.

Campaign treasurer Linus Catignani said U.S. Bank "rolled over" the \$360,000 loan and the money is now due in 2007. U.S. Bank spokesman Steve Dale said the company does not comment on individual loans.

The committee had paid off about \$10,000 as of Sept. 30, according to its federal campaign filing.

It had \$362,000 at the beginning of July, enough to pay off the loan, but lost \$32,057, or 8.8 percent, in the stock market in July and August, the records show.

By the end of September, after paying other expenses, the campaign had \$312,807, the Chattanooga Times Free Press reported this week after reviewing the records.

Altogether, the committee lost more than \$224,000 on stocks since November 2000, the records showed.

A Nashville office of U.S. Bank made the loan with a 4 percent interest rate in August 2001. Catignani told The Washington Post that the campaign committee took out the loan to pay various political expenses so it would not have to cash out its stock holdings.

Interest earnings will pay the loan off by its new due date, Catignani said.

Melanie Sloan, executive director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, D.C., questioned whether the bank provided special privileges to Frist.

"Are the policies of U.S. Bank used to extend his loan the same as what is offered to members of the public?" she said.

A Federal Election Commission audit approved in September found accounting mistakes and inadequate disclosure in reporting from Frist's political action committee during 2002. The errors were not serious, the FEC said.



Frist

United Methodist Church jury convicts female minister of homosexuality, may defrock her

The Associated Press

PUGHOTON, Pa. — A jury made up of United Methodist Church clergy convicted a lesbian minister Thursday of violating church law by openly living with her partner in a committed relationship.

The Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud could be defrocked as a result of the ruling, which came on the second day of her church trial.

The same 13-member jury was set to meet Thursday afternoon to decide her penalty.

Methodist law bars "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" from ministry. Nine votes were necessary for a conviction and the jury voted 12-1 to find Stroud guilty.

The last time the 8.3 million-member denomination convicted an openly gay clergy member was in 1987, when a New Hampshire church court defrocked the Rev. Rose Mary Dennis.

Last March, a Methodist court in Washington state acquitted the Rev. Karen Demann, who lives with a same-sex partner, citing an ambiguity in church law that the Methodist supreme court has since eliminated.

Before the jury returned, Stroud, 34, told reporters that whatever the verdict, "this case has shown how divided we are" over the role of gays in the church. She expected to be convicted.

Priest gets prison time for rape

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — A Catholic priest from New Hampshire has been sentenced to 4½ to 5 years in prison after he admitted repeatedly raping an altar boy at a Waltham parish in the 1980s.

The Rev. Robert Gale, 63, pleaded guilty to four counts of raping a child, just as jury selection was set to begin for his trial Tuesday. He was sentenced Wednesday.

The sexual assaults took place at St. Jude's parish in Waltham between 1980 and 1985.

Israel spy probe

WASHINGTON — FBI agents searched files and served subpoenas at the offices of the major pro-Israel lobbying organization as part of an investigation into whether Israel improperly obtained classified U.S. information on Iran.

The search Wednesday at the offices of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee was disclosed in a statement by the organization.

From The Associated Press

Brokaw takes final bow as NBC News anchor

BY FRAZIER MOORE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tom Brokaw began with a report on U.S. troops in Iraq. He ended the broadcast by saying farewell.

After nearly 23 years in the "NBC Nightly News" anchor chair, Brokaw reminded his viewers that "we've been through a lot together, through dark days and nights, and seasons of hope and joy."

"Whatever the story, I had only one objective: to get it right," he said Wednesday, declining in a slightly quivering voice how he was "always mindful that your patience and attention didn't come with a lifetime warranty."

Brokaw, 64, is leaving "Nightly News" and daily journalism to pursue other interests, including more time on his Montana ranch.

But he will still contribute to NBC News, doing at least three documentaries a year.

While Brokaw was saying his good-byes, Peter Jennings was praising him on ABC as "a competitor in the best sense, which in our trade means when he beats us on a



Brokaw

story, it is usually the result of enterprise."

On his CBS newscast, Dan Rather said, "For more than 30 years, I have known Tom as friend and competitor who has earned the respect of his audience, and his colleagues, myself included."

Then to Brian Williams, Rather added, "Welcome to the neighborhood."

Williams, long groomed as Brokaw's successor, takes over "Nightly News." He begins at the top of the ratings, where "Nightly News" has reigned since 1997. Unveiled more than two years ago, the NBC transition plan was briefly upstaged last week by the surprise announcement that Rather would be departing. "The CBS Evening News" anchor chair in March, after 24

years. No successor to the 73-year-old Rather, who will report full-time for "60 Minutes," has yet been named. Those changes, after two decades of stability, will leave only Jennings among the old-timers.

Brokaw, a South Dakota native who joined NBC in 1966, was White House correspondent from 1973 to 1976, encompassing the Watergate years. He anchored "Today" from 1976 to 1981.

He began his "Nightly News" run in April 1982, sharing the anchor title with Roger Mudd. Then in September 1983, he emerged as solo anchor — just days after Jennings began soloing on ABC's "World News Tonight."

Congressman: Abstinence programs are misleading

BY MARK SHERMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rep. Henry Waxman says federally funded abstinence education programs that are used in 25 states contain false and misleading information about contraception, abortion and sexually transmitted diseases.

A report Wednesday from the California Democrat said 11 of the 13 most widely used programs underestimate the effectiveness of condoms in preventing pregnancy and the spread of disease, exaggerate the prevalence of emotional and physical distress following abortion, blur science and religion or get fundamental scientific facts wrong.

Alma Golden, deputy assistant Health and Human Services Secretary for population affairs, said the Waxman report took statements out of context to present the programs in the worst possible light.

"These issues have been raised before and discredited," Golden said. "One thing is very clear for our children: Abstaining from sex is the most effective means of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV, STDs and preventing pregnancy."

The abstinence programs, which have been embraced by President Bush, will receive \$170 million in the current government spending year, more than double what the government was spending when Bush took office in 2001. The abstinence curriculum may not include in-

struction in contraceptive use as a condition of federal funding.

Waxman said, "It is absolutely vital that the health education provided to America's youth be scientifically and medically accurate. The abstinence-only programs reviewed in this report fail to meet this standard."

For example, A.C. Green's Game Plan — named for the professional basketball player who said he would not have sex before he was married — raises question about whether condoms can stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, Waxman's report said.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other researchers have found that consistent and correct condom use does protect against transmissions of many STDs, the report said.

N.M. tea ruling stayed

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration on Wednesday won a Supreme Court stay that blocks a New Mexico church from using hallucinogenic tea that the government contends is illegal and potentially dangerous.

The government has been in a long-running legal fight with the Brazil-based O Centro Espirita Beneficente Uniao do Vegetal over hoasca tea, brewed from plants found in the Amazon River Basin.

Justice Stephen Breyer, acting on behalf of the full court, granted a temporary stay to give both sides time to file more arguments with the court.

From The Associated Press

Message for our men and women in uniform...

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

From coast to coast, thousands of Americans are grateful for what you do and want to show you that they care. To see the actions and messages of support from these groups and individuals from all across America, visit www.strips.com.

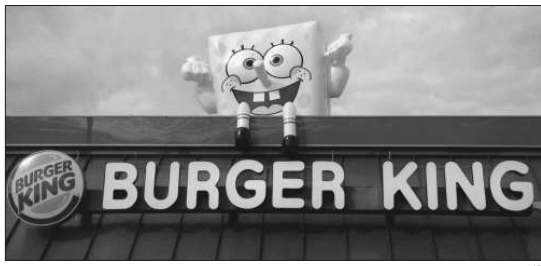
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An inflatable SpongeBob SquarePants figure sits on top of a Burger King in Portsmouth, Va., Tuesday. Inflatable versions of the animated movie and TV star are mysteriously disappearing from the roofs of Burger King restaurants across the nation.

Thieves soak in the glory of stealing a SpongeBob

BY ARTHUR SANTANA

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — SpongeBob SquarePants wasn't doing anyone any harm.

A six-foot blow-up version of the Nickelodeon cartoon character had been perched on the roof of a Burger King in St. Mary's County, Md., for three days, his skinny legs dangling over the edge, his fists triumphantly in the air, smiling that goofy grin of his. He was only trying to promote his animated feature film, "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie," and maybe sell a few watches and kids' meals.

Then along came Steven Simon and his buddy Conrad "C.J." Mercure Jr., both 18, with no car and no clue what to do with themselves in the early hours of Nov. 19.

Mercure said he wondered aloud, "Hey, what if we were to steal that SpongeBob on top of the Burger King?" Seeking to do what others said couldn't be done, he and Simon set out to kidnap the giant cartoon sponge.

"We were like, 'That's gotta be a first'—stealing a giant SpongeBob off of the top of Burger King," Simon said.

Actually, it's not.

Burger King officials say stealing the inflatables from atop restaurants in the middle of the night has become something of a nationwide trend. Similar thefts have been reported in 10 states, they say. "And the number is going up every day," said a Burger King spokesman in New York.

Some of them are returned, but some have turned up on eBay, selling for up to \$1,000. In one case, after a SpongeBob was stolen from atop of Burger King in Little Falls, Minn., workers found a ransom note: "We have SpongeBob. Give us 10 crabby patties, fries, and milkshakes."

The SpongeBob inflatables started going up Nov. 11 across the country, according to Burger King, which said just over 4,700 inflatables were ordered by franchise owners.

Simon said he went with Mercure to the Burger King in Lexington Park about 2 a.m. Nov. 19. They said they went to the restaurant's dumpster area and used a trash can and several pallets to get to the roof.

Then it was just a matter of unplugging SpongeBob's air valve.

"We flipped him down on his back so no one could see him deflating," Simon said, adding that he and Mercure cut the ropes that held down the inflatable. He said the whole process took about an hour. "I was sitting there smoking a cigarette most of the time," he said. "When we got down, we were like, 'Yeah!'"

For their getaway, Mercure and Simon did what any other person who had just stolen an inflatable cartoon character from atop a Burger King would do: They called a cab.

Even police laughed about it. "They had to pay for three hours, not just two," said Cpl. John Shoemaker of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

Soon, Mercure and Simon — along with a bundled-up SpongeBob — were on their way to Mercure's apartment in Lexington Park. "After we got it, we gave it to a friend's sister, and she gave it to her boyfriend ... for his birthday," Simon said.

Bill Cocimano, general manager of the Burger King, said he was initially incensed when he found out that his SpongeBob was stolen.

He said that the next day, an employee said "somebody is running his mouth at Great Mills High School that he has SpongeBob in his bedroom. I told them, 'You get me a name, I'll give you 20 bucks.'"

He said he soon turned over Mercure's name to police.

Within three hours, police had SpongeBob, Cocimano said.

Cocimano said that when he tried to restore SpongeBob to his perch Friday, the inflatable was too badly damaged to hold the air. Simon and Mercure were arrested Friday and charged with misdemeanor theft of goods worth less than \$500 and released pending a court appearance Dec. 15, authorities said.

Although the offense is punishable by up to 18 months in jail and a \$500 fine, Simon and Mercure said they're proud of their achievement.

Said Mercure: "It was a fun experience. I'm loving the attention."

Death of rare bird leaves species' future uncertain

BY JAYMES WONG

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — One of Earth's rarest birds might have gone into extinction following the death of one of the last known po'ouli.

The aging male po'ouli died in captivity Friday, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Tuesday. It had recently contracted avian malaria, but the exact cause of death wasn't known until tests from the necropsy are completed.

The remaining two po'ouli, believed to be a male and a female, haven't been seen for nearly a year. They might also have died, moved to another area or have just been missed by wildlife officials.

"This species was a unique part of Earth's history," said Eric VanderWerf, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Hawaiian bird recovery coordinator. "We'll never have another one like it if it disappears."

The rare Hawaiian honeycreeper had been kept at the Maui Bird Conservation Center in Olinda since it was captured for breeding

on Sept. 9. Biologists failed to capture a mate for the aging bird, which was found in the Hanalei Natural Area Reserve.

The state, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Zoological Society of San Diego, which operates the

Maui conservation center, began a search Tuesday to find the remaining two po'ouli in the remote rainforests of Maui.

The small, stocky, brown bird with a partial black face described in a band's mark was discovered in 1973 by a group of University of Hawaii students conducting research on the east slope of Haleakala volcano. It is so unique that it has its own genus, and is the only Hawaiian forest bird to rely heavily on native tree snails for food.

Tissue samples from the dead bird were saved for cryogenic preservation for possible cloning in the future.

The po'ouli's numbers have dwindled because of habitat loss and introduced predators like rats, cats and mongoose. Nonnative diseases carried by mosquitoes have also taken a toll on the Hawaiian birds.

Geography crusader devotes life to America

BY CHARLES ODUM

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Roger Andresen wants to make sure you know that Mount Everest is the world's tallest mountain, Minsk is the capital of Belarus and the hottest place on earth is in Ethiopia.

Disturbed by the United States' poor showing in an international geography competition, Andresen quit his job as a fiber optics engineer two years ago to devote his life to improving the nation's geography IQ.

He now hawks his prize-winning geography puzzle in toy stores across the nation while promoting his online geography competition, which has drawn more than 350,000 participants from 179 countries.

"Almost every developed nation is better than us," Andresen said of the quiz.

"Maybe we just get too caught up in such a busy life," he said. "Most other countries have more vacations and travel more and when they are in school, they get taught more about the rest of the world."

Roger Andresen assumed it was normal to have intimate knowledge and appreciation of the world and that most Americans were armed with a basic education in world geography. Then he learned late in 2002 that the United States scored next to last in an international geography competition conducted by National Geographic magazine. He be-

came obsessed with the notion of finding a way to spark a renewed interest in geography.

Even before his career change in 2002, Andresen already had an idea that resulted from a frustrating afternoon trying to find his way around Atlanta's extensive suburbs.

"I thought someone should make a puzzle, with each piece shaped like a suburb," he said. "Then I thought I should make a bigger puzzle, with each piece shaped like a country."

Andresen found a manufacturer in Wisconsin and now about 1,000 retailers across the nation sell his puzzle. Children's publisher Scholastic named Andresen's Global Puzzle as the top educational resource of 2004.

"It's a fun way to learn a fairly dry subject," said Kim Hight of the Palm Beach (Florida) Organization of Home Schoolers.

"The difference is just the fact that the puzzle pieces are the shape of the countries. They'd much rather learn that way than just reading and looking at a map."

But Andresen wanted to reach a larger audience. So next came an idea designed for the Internet-savvy — the Geography Olympics.

Participants representing 179 of the world's 193 countries have logged on to test their geography IQ.

The United States has moved up to 36th on the leaderboard, based on the answers from just 35,000 Americans.



MARK GAIL, WASHINGTON POST/LATVIA

Lexington Park, Md., Burger King employee Mike Stewart, right, and Bill Cocimano, the restaurant's general manager, examine the deflated SpongeBob SquarePants stolen from the restaurant.

America's HIV infection rate holds steady

BY DANIEL YEE
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Despite the government's promise to "break the back" of the AIDS epidemic by 2005, about 40,000 Americans test positive for the HIV infection every year — the same number as a decade ago.

The figure is double the annual goal of 20,000 new HIV cases laid out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention nearly four years ago. Nearly a million people in the United States now have the AIDS virus.

"We have a ways to go before we reach the mark of reducing new infections by half in the United States," said Dr. Ronald Valdisseri, who heads the CDC's HIV and AIDS prevention program.

Still, Valdisseri described the HIV infection rate as "relatively stable" Wednesday as part of the federal health agency's commemo-

oration of World AIDS Day.

In 2001, the CDC's campaign focused on outwardly healthy people who did not realize they had HIV — about a fourth of those infected. Officials then said targeting them was key, because if they knew they were infected, they would be more likely to take steps not to spread the virus.

Such an effort "could possibly break the back of the epidemic in the United States," the CDC's Dr. Robert Janssen said then.

But the agency found that just targeting people who didn't know they had the AIDS virus was not enough. So last year, the CDC shifted gears, focusing on counseling those who knew they had HIV in an attempt to get them not to spread the virus.

Some advocacy groups say that effort fails to focus on drug users, or very sexually active young men.

One AIDS expert said it's difficult for health officials to mea-

sure exactly how many new HIV infections there are each year.

"Forty thousand is an estimate that is averaged over time. The changes can't be tracked easily from year to year," said Dr. James Curran, dean of Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health and the CDC's former AIDS chief during the epidemic's peak in the 1980s.

Valdisseri said the CDC is working on how to accurately determine how many people are infected with HIV each year but the system is still under development. Despite that, more attention needs to be paid to AIDS, Curran said.

"What has concerned many of us in the United States is the lack of attention to the domestic AIDS problem and complacency on behalf of high-risk groups," Curran said, adding that more counseling, testing and education is needed in the country to prevent HIV.

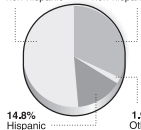
The CDC believes up to

HIV/AIDS continues to afflict races differently

From 2000 to 2003, new cases of HIV/AIDS were diagnosed in 125,800 persons who resided in the 32 states surveyed. Although blacks constituted 13 percent of that population, they accounted for more than half of the group diagnosed.

HIV by race, ethnicity

51% Black, non-Hispanic
32% White, non-Hispanic



States surveyed: Ala., Alaska, Ariz., Ark., Colo., Fla., Idaho, Ind., Iowa, Kan., La., Mich., Minn., Miss., Mo., Neb., Nev., N.J., N.M., N.C., N.D., Ohio, Okla., S.C., S.D., Tex., Utah, Va., W.Va., Wis., Wyo.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

How disease was transmitted

Men who have sex with men, MSM	44.1%
Heterosexual contact with known infected person	34.3
Injection drug use, IDU	16
MSM and IDU	4.1
Other	1.6

950,000 people in the United States are infected with HIV and up to 280,000 of them don't know it, Valdisseri said.

400-year-old skull piece reveals surgery, autopsy

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Virginia — A skull fragment found in a 400-year-old trash pit at Jamestown contains evidence of the earliest known surgery — and autopsy — in the English colonies in America, researchers say.

The skull cut marks indicate someone attempted to drill two holes in the skull to relieve pressure on the brain, the researchers said. The patient, a European man, died and was apparently autopsied.

Archaeologists found the 4-inch-by-4-inch fragment this summer while digging in a bulk-wreck trench on the site of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America, was founded in 1607 as a business venture.

The skull piece was discarded with trash, such as pottery shards, from no later than about 1610, said Bly Straube, senior curator of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

Douglas W. Owsley, forensic osteologist at the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institution, and Ashley H. McKeown, forensic anthropolo-

gist at the University of Montana, determined that the fragment was part of the occipital bone from the back of the skull.

Owsley thinks the man was hit in the back of the head with a stone ax and suffered a fractured skull. That would suggest the blow came from an Indian, Straube said. But Straube said it is also possible the man simply tripped and fell and hit his head on a rock.

Researchers know the fragment came from a European man because of its shape and thickness and because it contained traces of lead, Straube said. Eating and drinking from lead-glazed pottery or pewter was a common practice in Europe.

The surgeon tried to drill two holes in the skull using a device known as a trepan tool that would remove a plug of bone, Straube said. It looks like the surgeon made two attempts at one spot and then moved to a second spot, Straube said.

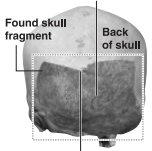
In the Jamestown case, the procedure was not completed, probably because the patient died. Saw marks on the top edge of the bone indicate an autopsy was performed, the researchers said.

Skull evidence of earliest surgery

A piece of skull found in a 400-year-old trash pit in Jamestown, Va., this summer contained evidence of the earliest known surgery in 17th century America.



Surgery — A surgeon attempted to drill holes to relieve pressure caused by a fracture made by a blunt instrument



Autopsy — Saw marks indicate that an autopsy was done after the patient's death, which probably occurred during surgery

Source: Historic Jamestowne

AP

Female libido drug may be health risk

BY DIETTRA HENDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The hormone patch Intrinsa aims to restore women's lost libido, but some health experts are concerned that potential health risks may eclipse the benefit of marginally better sex.

A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel was considering Thursday whether the agency should approve the first drug to treat hypoactive sexual desire disorder in women who have had their ovaries removed or damaged and are receiving estrogen therapy.

Women with the disorder have a sex drive that is so diminished that they no longer fantasize about sex or crave it, causing stress and strained relationships.

Procter & Gamble Co. is seeking FDA approval to sell the testosterone patch Intrinsa, the first such product to treat a condition that affects up to 3 million postmenopausal American women.

Clinical trials showed that women using Intrinsa had only modest improvements to their sex lives. Women who applied the patch to their abdomen twice weekly had one more "satisfying sexual event" per four weeks, compared with a placebo.

The FDA, chastised before Congress for ignoring safety concerns with drugs, has asked its Reproductive Health Drugs advisory committee to consider whether that slim benefit offsets potential risk from long-term use of the hormone testosterone. Women using the Intrinsa testosterone patch will also take estrogen.

The Women's Health Initiative, a program established by the National Institutes of Health, found that postmenopausal women taking the hormones estrogen and progestin had higher risks of heart attack, stroke and breast cancer.

"The unexpected safety findings... indicated that short-term or uncontrolled studies may not provide adequate estimates of the risks of hormonal therapy," the FDA told its advisory panel.

Mary Johnson, a Procter & Gamble spokeswoman, said, "Those questions were not unexpected and they will be addressed during the presentation."

Documents provided to the committee Thursday said 494 surgically menopausal women were treated with the patch in combination with estrogen for one year. Of those, 127 were treated for 18 months.

The placebo-controlled safety data that they will review only covers six months.

In addition, the company plans a post-marketing study to track women taking Intrinsa for five years to determine rates of heart disease and breast cancer.

Critics were lobbying federal advisers to delay action or deny approval.

Dr. Leonore Tefler, a sexuality expert at New York University's School of Medicine, was asking the committee to postpone a ruling until researchers get more safety data on more women.

"We're talking about a long-term hormonal treatment here," Tefler said. "In order to demonstrate the safety of it, we need to study it for a couple of years — not 12 and 24 weeks."

Dental plaque linked to pneumonia in elderly

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Better oral hygiene, including good regular tooth brushing, may lessen seniors' chances of developing pneumonia, according to a study which traced germs from dental plaque to the lungs of patients with the potentially fatal illness.

Dr. Ali El-Solh, lead author of the study published in the November issue of the journal Chest,

said the findings "indicate that dental plaque is a reservoir of respiratory pathogens" that can be inhaled into the lungs and lead to pneumonia.

The University at Buffalo researchers stopped short of saying that brushing or rinsing patients' teeth or dentures is enough to destroy the germs and prevent pneumonia, citing the need for more research. But the study makes a strong case for improving dental care for nursing home residents, he and others said.

Institutionalized and critically ill elderly people, who are often frail with weakened immune systems, are particularly susceptible to pneumonia, and poor dental hygiene has been suspect for several years.

"They tend to have no oral hygiene at all so there's a lot of bacteria growing in the front part of the respiratory tract, the mouth," said Dr. Jack Caton, past president of the American Academy of Periodontology.

OPINION

Russia exploits Ukraine's continental divide

WASHINGTON Now more than ever, the bedrock idea on which U.S. foreign policy rests is that the nation's security is enhanced by the spread of democracy. Since 9/11 the idea has been that security depends on democratization in nations with slight, if any, traditions of popular sovereignty.

George Will

However, the policy of promoting democracy is a sharp scythe that can mow down more than the people wielding the tool might intend. In Ukraine's debased election, Russian President Vladimir Putin twice campaigned for the candidate who benefited from fraud, violence and other violations of civilized norms, incidents that seemed to bear Putin's signature. Commenting on Ukraine, Secretary of State Colin Powell said, "We cannot accept this result as legitimate because it does not meet international standards and because there has not been an investigation of the numerous and credible reports of fraud and abuse."

Which could have been said of President Putin's own re-election earlier this year. What President Bush said three years ago was that he had "a sense of" Putin's soul—formed by 15 years in the KGB—and liked what he sensed. "We share a lot of values." Events in Russia have not tempered the president's reiterated insistence that "freedom is on the march."

Putin stands athwart that march in Russia, where he has marginalized inconvenient parties, controlled the media and used the criminal justice system to intimidate potential rival sources of power and social authority. Now the Kremlin, which issued instructions to Ukrainian state-controlled media

during the presidential campaign, seems determined to export Putinism to contiguous countries.

Putin calls Viktor Yanukovich's 49.46 percent of the Ukrainian vote a "convincing victory over Viktor Yushchenko. Yushchenko received 46.61 percent in his challenge to the authoritarian regime that backed Yanukovich, who favors closer relations with Russia, in the manner of some other 'managed democracies' among former Soviet republics.

Yushchenko favors Ukrainian membership in the European Union and, perhaps, in NATO.

Criminality against Yushchenko's campaign went beyond multiple instances of violence, intimidation and vote fraud. The Financial Times reports that when Yushchenko appeared before a large crowd of supporters in Kiev, and his face filled a large video screen, a woman exclaimed, "Oh, how terrible. He was so handsome." His pockmarked and scarred features are the result of what seems to have been a poisoning that felled him hours after dining with the head of Ukraine's secret service.

Russia's attempt to control Ukraine's destiny is partly a reverberation from the dissolution of the Soviet empire. Russia's desire to envelop Ukraine within its sphere of influence is a centuries-old Russian tendency. The novel impulse at work here is the transformation of "Europe" from a geographic into a political expression—and Putin's recoil against that.

In its admirably sharp criticism of Ukraine's election, the EU is postulating certain standards of civic hygiene integral to European identity. If the EU extends membership to Turkey, Europe's border will abut Iraq. And if, in time, Ukraine joins, Europe's border will be widened to Moscow.

The canon of European literature includes Pushkin, Chekhov, Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, but that does not settle the question of Russia's identity—its relationship to Europe. Charles de Gaulle spoke of Europe extending from the Atlantic (in some of his



I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS — A VOTING BOOTH WITH AN IRON CURTAIN.

moods, from the English Channel) to the Ural Mountains. But there is a lot of Russia—eight time zones of it—east of there.

Ukraine has been independent for 13 years—the length of time between America's declaration of independence and the election of its first president, when the cohesion of the national entity was in doubt. Talk of secession is rife in Ukraine's eastern, Russian-oriented region.

The 19th century featured national consolidations—the United States, Germany, Italy, Belgium, etc. Recently, the disintegrative forces of religion, ethnicity and language have driven events in the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, the former Soviet Union and elsewhere.

Ukraine, where Catholicism and the Ukrainian language flourish in the west and

Orthodox Christianity and Russian in the east, could be the latest cauldron to boil over.

The United States, with its foreign policy hostage to January elections by the Palestinian Authority and those in Iraq, has a stake in Ukrainian events that is much larger than its leverage. As Lech Walesa, hero of Poland's liberation, told a mass meeting of Yushchenko's supporters, Poland supports you but you must do this yourself.

The problem, in Ukraine and others among Russia's anxiously watching neighbors, is Putin. Perhaps Secretary Powell intended the wide arc of his scythe to encompass Moscow when he said that corrupt elections cannot create legitimate governments.

George Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Desire to capture bin Laden stronger than tactics

The (Baltimore) Sun

The Pakistani army has pulled back from a tribal region where it was conducting a highly publicized and entirely fruitless hunt for Osama bin Laden. The operation, in an area known as South Waziristan, reportedly conducted with American intelligence help from across the nearby Afghan border; it succeeded primarily in turning the local tribesmen fiercely against the government forces. In October, the Pakistani military was reduced to waging a campaign of aerial bombardment against recalcitrant villages.

Now, according to an official announcement, a newfound spirit of cooperation among the Waziris will allow the army to abandon its checkpoint in the area. Some Pakistani officials say that no signs of the al-Qaida leader have been found, anyway, and that suggests to them that he's nowhere in the vicinity.

Others reserve judgment on that point but, in any case, using an army to chase after an individual is not only ineffective but often counterproductive—as Pakistan was discovering. The tribesmen are riled up, and from among them a new terrorist leader is emerging: Abdullah Jihadi, a one-legged 29-year-old whose two years at Guantanamo failed to curb his ardor or teach him respect for authority.

Released from Cuba in March, he organized the kidnapping of two Chinese engi-

neers this fall—one of whom was killed by government troops attempting a rescue—and then took credit for the bombing of a hotel in Islamabad last month. He has become a sensation in the Pakistani press, and has given President Pervez Musharraf considerably more to be concerned about than has the titular head of al-Qaida. He's also a good example of the way in which the United States succeeds in making enemies for itself.

Pakistan seems—perpetually—to be at one timing point or another. Right now the government is gingerly exploring

some sort of deal with India over Kashmir, in the northeast, and the last thing it needs is a fundamentalist uprising in the northwest. Defanging the Islamists is Musharraf's most crucial task, from his own point of view—but that coincides with American interests as well. It might, in the long run, also be the best way to catch bin Laden—if, in fact, he's still in the Pakistani mountains. Winning over the tribes rather than trying to pound them into submission could leave him with nowhere to run.

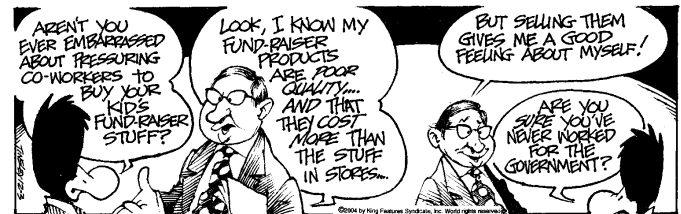
In that sense, then, the current pull-

back may be a good sign. But it's worth noting that no government—not the Pakistani government, nor the British colonial government before it—has ever succeeded in extending its writ over the tribal areas. If Musharraf is to succeed, even in part, it may mean dropping the pursuit of the al-Qaida leadership for now.

The Bush administration should be patient on that score; though justice will be served by the eventual capture of bin Laden, it is more likely to be accomplished through stealth and ingenuity than by a clumsy and sometimes less-than-genuine frontal assault.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



IN THE WORLD

Chickens for warplanes

BANGKOK, Thailand — The foreign ministers of Thailand and Russia met Wednesday to discuss bilateral issues including trade and the possibility of bartering Thai chickens for Russian warplanes.

"The authorities from both sides are discussing the trade of chickens for warplanes," Thai Foreign Minister Surakiat Subairatol told reporters after talks with his counterpart, Sergey Lavrov. "They are meeting with the air force today, and tomorrow will meet with the defense minister."

If a deal is reached, Russia would import 100 tons of Thai chicken, Surakiat said. Although he did not say what kind of how many aircraft might be involved, in the past Thailand has expressed interest in acquiring Russia's advanced Sukoi Su-30 fighter.

E.T. cereal grain sold on eBay

SYDNEY, Australia — First it was a purported likeness of the Virgin Mary in a cheese sandwich. Now, a single grain of E.T. cereal with a green alien's resemblance to cuddly movie alien E.T. has reportedly fetched \$804 on eBay.

Chris Doyle of Sydney said he was about to pour milk over his cereal one morning when he noticed an E.T. lookalike peering from his bowl.

Inspired by the \$28,000 online sale in November of a grilled cheese sandwich, which some claimed appeared to have the Virgin Mary's face on it, the 27-year-old graphic designer decided to cash in on his alien-looking piece of cereal.

"I was just trying to find someone who feels the same way about E.T. as they do about the Virgin Mary," Doyle told The Daily Telegraph newspaper for its Wednesday edition.

Steven Spielberg's 1982 film "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" is a tale of a lovable alien befriended by a 10-year-old boy.

Dying wish to save cows

BUCH, Switzerland — Shortly before his death last month, a Swiss farmer made an unusual last request — save his two cows from the slaughterhouse and put them in a retirement home.

The family of the now-deceased farmer even organized a church collection to save 8-year-old Maya and her 4-month-old calf Toni, the organizers of the retirement scheme said Thursday.

"His son begged the priest to call for a collection so that the animals would not have to be slaughtered and our project could take over," said Reinhold Zepf, founder of the "Viva la Vacca" organization, adding that the family wished to remain anonymous.

Maya and Toni can now live the life of leisure in the green pastures of northeast Switzerland.

Urinal as influential art

LONDON — A porcelain urinal is the most influential work of modern art, according to a new survey.

The poll of 500 arts figures ranked French surrealist Marcel Duchamp's 1917 piece "Fountain" — an ordinary white, porcelain urinal — more influential than Pablo Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger," Andy Warhol's screen prints of Marilyn Monroe and "Guernica," Picasso's searing depiction of the devastation of war.

Duchamp pioneered the use of everyday objects as art, an aesthetic that questioned the nature of art itself.

The survey was conducted by Gordon's Prize, sponsored by Britain's leading art prize, the Turner Prize. The winner of this year's Turner Prize is to be announced next Tuesday.

From The Associated Press

Ukraine vote goes to high court

BY MARA D. BELLABY

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Tens of thousands of upbeat opposition supporters paraded in Kiev's main square Thursday, erecting a Christmas tree and waving orange flags, in a show of confidence as the Supreme Court heard final arguments on whether to overturn disputed election results.

With Ukraine's political crisis nearing a decisive turning point, Russian President Vladimir Putin took the government's side in a deepening dispute over how to proceed once the judges issue a ruling.

Putin denounced the opposition's demand for a repeat of the contentious Nov. 21 run-off vote rather than holding entirely new elections for president, as the government wants. Putin said a new run-off "would yield nothing."

"A revote could be conducted a third, a fourth, 25th time, until one side gets the re-

sults it needs," a grim-faced Putin said, standing alongside his longtime ally, outgoing Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

The two held a hastily arranged meeting at Moscow's airport just before Putin left for India. Kuchma flew to Russia for support as his government appeared to be losing momentum in the 11-day standoff with the opposition.

President Bush said Thursday that if a new vote is held in Ukraine it "ought to be free from any foreign influence" — an apparent veiled reference to Russia.

Bush did not single out any country, but his words seemed to echo those of Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, with whom Bush met this week and who explicitly said Russia must not meddle in the Ukrainian matter.

With a new vote appearing likely, Kuchma wants to ensure an entirely new election is held — rather than a new run-off between his ally, Prime Minister Viktor

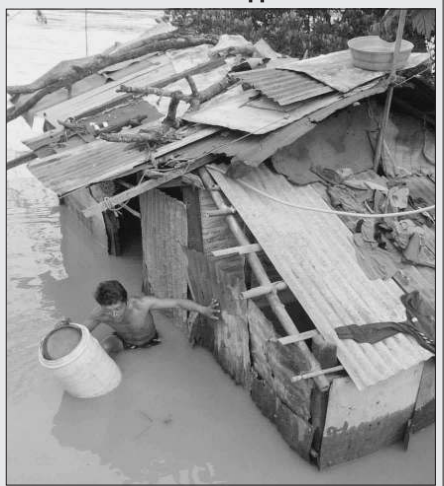
Yanukovich, and opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko, a reformer who wants to move Ukraine closer to the West.

Kuchma may want to put forward a stronger candidate to replace Yanukovich in the race, which would only be possible if an election is held from scratch.

A court decision had been expected Thursday. But after beginning to hear final arguments in the evening, the court's 18 judges adjourned the session for the night without a decision. The final arguments will continue Friday, after which the justices will retreat for deliberations before announcing a decision. It was unclear how long the process would take.

In talks mediated by European officials, Yushchenko and Yanukovich agreed Wednesday to respect the court's ruling. The opposition charges that government forces cheated Yushchenko of victory in the runoff, and his campaign has appealed results from eastern regions where the prime minister's support is strongest.

Death toll rises in the Philippines



A man salvages a bucket from inside his submerged house Thursday near a riverbank in Pullian town, Bulacan province, north of Manila in the Philippines. The death toll from a powerful rainstorm that triggered landslides and flash floods in the eastern Philippines rose to 412, with 177 people still missing, officials said. Winds and rain from another approaching typhoon hampered rescue efforts.

Annan supported by U.N. members

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — United Nations member states voiced support for Secretary-General Kofi Annan after a U.S. senator called for him to resign over possible fraud in Iraq's oil-for-food program. The State Department endorsed a Senate investigation of the troubled program but sided with the view of Annan's future.

Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., who is leading one of five U.S. congressional investigations into the U.N. oil-for-food program, wrote in Wednesday's Wall Street Journal that Annan should step down because "the most extensive fraud in the history of the U.N. occurred on his watch."

The secretary-general appears to retain wide support among the 191 U.N. member states who elected him to a second five-year term in 2001.

Russia, Britain, Chile, Spain and other nations on the U.N. Security Council strongly backed Annan in recent days, as did non-council members. The 54 African nations sent a letter of support.

"He has heard no calls for resignation from any member state," U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said when asked whether he envisioned Annan's resigning. "If there's some agitation on this issue on the sidelines... that's healthy debate. But he is intent on continuing his substantive work for the remaining two years and one month of his term."

The allegations of corruption in the oil-for-food program, which first surfaced in January, have escalated, embarrassing Annan and taking away from his agenda.

Court sends Anna Lindh's killer to prison

BY MATT MOORE

The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Sweden's Supreme Court ruled Thursday that the man convicted of murdering Foreign Minister Anna Lindh will serve his sentence in prison rather than in psychiatric care, reversing a contentious decision by a lower court.

The five-judge panel cited the ferocity with which Mijailo Mijailovic stabbed

Lindh, and the ruling was expected to satisfy Swedes who had called for a harsh punishment. The Supreme Court's decision is final, and there is no avenue for any appeal.

An appeals court had ruled earlier this year that Mijailovic should be confined to a mental hospital for the Sept. 10, 2003, stabbing of Lindh — one of Sweden's most popular politicians — as she shopped unguarded.

Lindh, 46, was expected to be Sweden's next prime minister. She died a day after

the attack.

Mijailovic will likely serve no longer than 15 years in prison, the typical length of a life sentence in the Scandinavian country.

Had he remained in psychiatric care, he could have been held in a secure facility for as long as 20 years — or have been released much sooner on a doctor's recommendation.

Mijailovic, who confessed to attacking Lindh, used a craftsman's knife to stab her repeatedly.

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Disease concerns

NC CHARLOTTE — Poor Rudolph won't join in any reindeer games in North Carolina this holiday season.

State wildlife officials worried about chronic-wasting disease — the deer-family equivalent of mad cow disease — have banned the transportation of deer, elk, caribou and reindeer within the state.

They have also blocked the import of the animals from other states in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease to the wild deer population.

That keeps deer farmers from moving the animals to Christmas parties, hayrides and other holiday events and is costing some of them thousands of dollars.

The rules are a reaction to a fatal disease that has infected deer in at least 12 states, devastating entire herds. The state Wildlife Commission approved temporary rules two years ago designed to stop the disease from being carried into North Carolina. The rules became permanent this summer.

Police drive Chevs?

ID BONNERS FERRY — She's not exactly the little old lady from Pasadena.

Nita Friedman, 66, led police on a pattering pursuit, driving at or under the speed limit for 15 miles through two counties.

The creeping chase on U.S. Highway 95 ended when three of Friedman's tires were blown out by a spike strip.

Police chief Mike Hutter said Friedman reported being confused because she was being pulled over by a four-wheel-drive Chevy Silverado pickup with lights in the grill. He said Friedman told Hutter she was from New York, and that in New York police drive cars.

"She just doesn't understand that she was doing anything wrong," Hutter said.

The chase started in Bonner County after Hutter got reports of a reckless driver.

Hutter said when he flipped on his lights and siren, it looked as if Friedman was pulling over. But she allegedly got back on the roadway and sped up to legal speeds between 50 mph and 60 mph.

Though Friedman never sped during the chase and even stopped behind a left-turning vehicle in Elmore, Hutter said he asked State Police to put a spike strip in the roadway.

When Friedman reached the spike strip, about three miles into Boundary County, she drove over it, stopped for a moment and then started driving again. But three of her tires were flattened, preventing her from getting far.

Friedman was charged with eluding police and reckless driving.

She was jailed on \$600 bail.

Not feeling optimistic

PA QUAKERTOWN — It's a glum day for optimists.

After 24 years of community service, the Quakertown Optimists Club is calling it quits. They're holding their last meeting on



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Thursday, citing declining interest.

"I feel sad," club president Bernard Kensky said.

Fewer club members were taking part in sporting and scholastic activities for children, and fewer kids were getting involved in club events, according to Kensky.

The group worked with schools to hold essay, spelling and public speaking contests for students, sponsored a youth bowling league and organized golf tournaments and football and basketball events.

A bicycle derby sponsored by the club and the Quakertown police department drew only 12 children last year, down from previous attendance of 50 to 70 children, Kensky said.

"Four or five people would come to meetings and only two or three people would help out with the activities," Kensky said. "I don't know why people stopped getting involved."

The Optimist Club is an international organization that formed in 1920. The Quakertown chapter started in 1980 with 35 members, but dropped to 15 members this year.

Quakertown is about 35 miles north of Philadelphia.

Surgeon presumed dead

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A nationally renowned San Francisco surgeon is presumed dead after vanishing while abalone diving

off the Mendocino County Coast.

A search-and-rescue team found an abalone pry bar and measuring tool belonging to William Krupski on Monday near the spot where he was last seen south of the coastal town of Mendocino.

No other sign of Krupski was found, Mendocino County Sheriff's Lt. Don Miller said.

Krupski, a vascular surgeon at Kaiser-Permanente Medical Center in San Francisco, was abalone diving with his wife, Ann.

Their floats drifted away in a strong current, Krupski's wife swam about 30 yards to retrieve them while he continued diving, according to Miller and family members. She told sheriff's investigators that her husband was gone when she returned.

"We know by what his wife told us that he was tired, but he was also intent on getting the last of the three abalone you are allowed to get on a sport fishing license," said Miller, who is an abalone diver himself. "We don't know what happened. No one witnessed it."

Archdiocese in the black

IN INDIANAPOLIS — The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis expects to end 2004 in the black after seven years of deficits. The shortfalls of as much as \$2 million a year were caused by rising health care costs for employees and rising property insurance costs, officials said.

Chair accused of conflicts

CO DENVER — A consumer advocacy group asked the chairman of the Public Utilities Commission to step down during upcoming hearings on a request by Quest Communications to ease regulations.

The group accused Gregory Sopkin of violating conflict-of-interest rules when he took a leadership position on a board indirectly funded by Quest and other companies.

Ice museum under way

AK FAIRBANKS — Chena Hot Springs Resort began construction of a four-gallery ice museum and chapel to be used for weddings. Owner Bernie Karl says he and ice carver Steve Brice learned important lessons since being forced to allow the Aurora Ice Hotel to melt last winter after ice chandeliers collapsed.

Innocence project ready

CT HARTFORD — The state public defender's office is ready to launch a program aimed at finding and freeing innocent people in state prisons. The Connecticut Innocence Project will seek out case evidence, especially DNA, that can exonerate inmates.

Rep. open to audit idea

FL TALLAHASSEE — Representative Ron Reagan, the new chairman of the House committee that deals with elections, said he's open to considering the idea of backup paper audit trails for touch-screen voting machines. The systems were used in 15 Florida counties this year.



Lit with holiday spirit

Scott Porter, with 3 Rivers Tree Service, carries giant holiday lights to the Caveman Bridge in Grants Pass, Ore.



Riding on the shore

A bicyclist pedals across Daytona Beach, in Daytona Beach, Fla., after an outgoing tide left behind a scattering of shells.



Fish out of water

Larry Baldwin, Neuse Riverkeeper, examines a Mola Mola (Ocean Sunfish) that washed ashore 5 miles below New Bern, N.C., on the Neuse River. The more than 300 pound fish was spotted swimming along the shore and residents tried to push it out to deep water but it returned to the beach and died. The Mola Mola is not rare along the ocean beaches but is unusual this far up a brackish river.



A hunting day

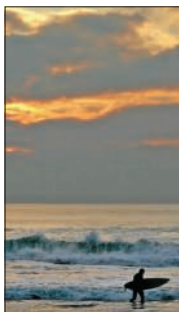
Deer hunter Todd King walks back to the woods to continue hunting outside West Liberty, Pa., in Butler County.



Winter weather sets in David Hughes and his dog Ty strolled by the piece "Sore throats come in three ways" by artist Tim Schaffer in a window display at Dolphin art gallery in downtown Kansas City, Mo., as the snow swirled around them.



All covered up Snow falls on a cougar sculpture at Cougar Plaza in Pullman, Wash. Pullman is home to the Washington State University Cougars.



Surfing day done Surfer Joe Hiragawa leaves the water as the sun sets over Ocean Beach, San Francisco, on Tuesday.



Trying to catch some sun Seagulls gather along a railing on the Chicago River to catch a few rays of morning sun as temperatures dipped below freezing in Chicago.

1 dead in bridge collapse

ND NEW TOWN — A section of a huge bridge under construction over a Missouri River reservoir collapsed, killing one worker and injuring three others, officials said.

The 4,200-foot Four Bears Bridge is to be the longest in North Dakota when it is finished, and at \$55 million the most expensive transportation project undertaken by the state. It will replace a narrow, outdated bridge over Lake Sakakawea.

Gwen Lantzer, a spokeswoman for St. Louis-based Pru-Con Construction, which began work on the project in May 2003, said the company was trying to determine what happened.

The bridge was scheduled to be completed next summer.

Burial records on Web

IL SPRINGFIELD — History buffs who want to know who's buried next to Abraham Lincoln soon will be able to search digital versions of Oak Ridge Cemetery's earliest burial records on the Internet. The cemetery gets 2.5 million visitors each year.

Former judge arrested

FL INVERNESS — Gary Graham, whose controversial judicial career in Citrus County ended a decade ago with his removal from the bench, was arrested and accused of committing sex crimes against two 10-year-old girls.

Graham, 56, is charged with two counts of lewd and lascivious conduct and one count of sexual battery on a child younger than 12, an arrest report showed. He was being held without bail in the Citrus County jail.

Graham has been a subject of controversy through much of his legal career. As county court judge, Graham once ordered a man to kill poisonous snakes that had bitten a neighbor and were ruled a menace.

He sent several people to jail for using foul language or otherwise acting contemptuously in court.

Man, officer disagree

PA BELLE VERNON — A man accused of pointing a loaded handgun at a police officer says he's only guilty of wearing tight jeans.

Sean Eldon Duvall, 36, was arrested Tuesday on charges including aggravated assault and reckless endangerment for the June 18 incident.

Southwest Regional Police Detective Sgt. James Rega said in court papers that Duvall left his car with the .38-caliber revolver hidden under papers and aimed it at him when he stopped to see if Duvall needed help.

Duvall told The Associated Press that he didn't need help, he said he was just stepping out of his car to go to a friend's house to play chess.

Duvall acknowledged he had his gun with him, but said he has a permit to carry it, which he tried to show Rega. By law, the gun must be concealed, but Duvall said he couldn't conceal it under his pants while sitting in his car because his jeans were too tight.

Duvall said that's why left the car with the gun sandwiched among some magazines.

"The magazines were the bread and the gun was the meat," he said.

A district justice is scheduled to hear both sides of the story on Dec. 15.

Ship decommissioning

MS PASCAGOULA — The USS Yorktown will be removed from service Friday during a decommissioning ceremony two months after its sister ship, Ticonderoga, was towed from the Naval Station Pascagoula. The Yorktown will join Ticonderoga at the Navy's Inactive Ships Maintenance Facility in Pennsylvania.

Skip Mass if you're sick

MA BOSTON — Roman Catholic leaders in Springfield and Boston are urging influenza-prone parishioners to forego handshakes and communion wine, and Springfield Bishop Timothy McDonnell is excusing ill churchgoers from Mass altogether. The recommendations follow a flu vaccine shortage. McDonnell also said that receiving both the communion wafer and a sip of wine "is generally encouraged but is not a necessity," and that bread alone will suffice. The "sign of peace" between parishioners — typically a handshake — can be accomplished as easily with "a simple and friendly nod and/or wave," he said.

Da Vinci dispute ongoing

IN EVANSVILLE — Jurors could decide next summer if Leonardo da Vinci scribbled in the margins of a rare Renaissance-era book, the subject of a legal dispute that will require document experts and handwriting specialists.

The dispute centers around a 2001 contract concerning a 15th-century text that is valuable in its own right as a rare book. It could be worth significantly more if da Vinci made the notations in the margins.

The Evansville couple who owned the manuscript and hired an art dealer to sell it for them contended the handwriting is da Vinci's; the dealer contends it's a forgery.

This week, lawyers for both sides agreed the disputed manuscript will remain with the Akron, Ohio, art dealer and won't be sold or disposed of until the suit is resolved.

Enormous gallstone

CA LOS ANGELES — A gallstone the size of a golf ball — about 16 times the size of a normal one — has been removed from a 56-year-old man, doctors say. The massive growth was the result of a stent inadvertently left in his body from a pancreatic operation more than a decade ago.

Gonzalo Medina underwent surgery Monday at a hospital in Los Angeles. The procedure "went fine," according to his doctor, Ian Kenner.

"In 30 years of treating gallstones, I have never seen one of this size," Kenner said, adding it was amazing that Medina wasn't killed by it. "It's a tribute to the human body, and in this case, a particularly resilient one."

More than a year ago, Medina began suffering from chills, stomach pain and fever.

Medina previously underwent a procedure that sends shock waves to the gallstone to fragment it while the patient is submerged in water. He will likely face more operations, doctors said.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Officials eye Knight in awards melee

Police and probation officials have been reviewing videotape of the melee at the Vibe Awards show to determine if **Marion "Suge" Knight** played a role in the altercation. The rap producer has denied any involvement in the incident in which a man struck **Dr. Dre** twice, sparking a brawl in which the attacker was stabbed and seriously injured.

Dre, who real name is **Andre Young**, met with authorities Monday at the Santa Monica police station and demanded that his attacker, **Jimmy "James" Johnson**, be charged with assault and battery.

Videotape shows Johnson punching Dre on Nov. 16 at the second annual awards show. Johnson was then stabbed, allegedly by **Young Buck**, a rapper who is a protégé of Dr. Dre.

Young Buck, whose real name is **David Darnell Brown**, surrendered Nov. 19 to authorities and is arraigned Dec. 20.

The force is with Cal State Long Beach

"Star Wars" creator **George Lucas** donated \$100,000 to California State University, Long Beach, for film department scholarships and equipment.

Lucas donated the money at the request of the Department of Film and Electronic Arts. Although Lucas attended the University of Southern California, director **Steven Spielberg**, his close friend, went to Cal State Long Beach.

The university needed the money to fix or repair equipment damaged by an October storm. A satellite dish on the department's building fell through the roof during the storm, allowing water to seep into the building.

The department may not have been able to restore damaged cameras, projectors and videotape machines without the Lucas donation, department chair **Craig Smith** said recently.

The university's two-year undergraduate film program is popular among aspiring filmmakers. Alumni include **John Dykstra**, who won an Oscar for visual effects for "Star Wars"; **David Twohy**, who wrote and directed "Pitch Black" and "The Chronicles of Riddick"; and **Mark Steven Johnson**, writer and director of "Daredevil."

Prince Harry's knee injury bothersome

Prince Harry will delay his entry into Britain's prestigious military academy to allow him to fully recover from a knee injury, royal officials said.

Harry had been due to enroll at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in January. But the office of his father, **Prince Charles**, said Tuesday that Harry wouldn't start until May.

The 20-year-old, who is third in line to the throne, injured his knee several months ago while he was training with the army before his entry test for Sandhurst.

His knee has continued to trouble him in recent months and the injury sidelined him from playing polo during a stay at a polo farm in Argentina this month.

Tuesday's statement said Harry wanted to make sure he was 100 percent prepared for his entry to the academy, where students face a grueling schedule in their first weeks.

Nanny sues Imus, his wife and networks

A former nanny who worked for **Don Imus** has sued the radio and television personality, claiming he wrongfully fired her, chased her off his New York mansion in the middle of the night, and then trashed her on his radio show.

Nichole C. Mallette, 24, says in court papers that Imus apparently became upset about a small knife that she carried in a sheath on her belt, and about a cap pistol she had brought to the ranch for his 6-year-old son.

She says the boy had told her he had permission to play with cap guns at the ranch but the lawsuit, filed Monday, says she never gave the cap pistol to the boy.

Mallette is seeking unspecified damages, saying she was wrongfully terminated, defamed and subjected to intentional emotional distress. Her lawsuit names Imus, his wife, **NBC**, **MSNBC** and **Westwood One**.

Stories and photos from wire reports

"The series was a blend of great slapstick — Fran is a wonderful physical comedian and obviously had studied Lucille Ball a lot — but it was also a very sweet, romantic comedy, and a fish-out-of-water story."

Charles Shaughnessy

actor who played Maxwell Sheffield on "The Nanny"



That unmistakable whine is back! Fran Drescher, center, hosts a reunion of the cast from her sitcom "The Nanny" at her seaside Malibu, Calif., home.

A nosh to remember

Fran Drescher throws reunion party for cast of 'The Nanny'

BY BRIDGET BYRNE

The Associated Press

MALIBU, Calif. — Fran Drescher's distinctive voice cuts through the noisy chaos of actors and production people crowding the deck of her beachfront home.

"Hi, everyone. How you doing?" The star, known for her nasally whine, Yiddish exclamations, and ability to make a word like "wow" last as long as a sentence, was hosting a reunion of the cast from "The Nanny."

The gathering was staged as a dinner party where the leading lady and her co-stars reminisced. Their semi-scripted chatter was then interspersed with clips from the series, which ran on CBS from 1993 to 1999.

The result: "The Nanny Reunion: A Nosh to Remember" airing Dec. 6 on Lifetime, which shows weekday reruns of the sitcom.

At first, Drescher was reluctant to do a reunion special about Fran Fine, the middle-class girl from Queens who stumbles into a job taking care of a rich man's kids.

"Much as I love the show — I love reruns so I can watch it whenever I want — I was feeling like I need to grow as an artist and let the audience see me doing other things," Drescher says.

In a case of classic Hollywood deal making, a compromise was struck: To let Drescher to agree, Lifetime offered her the chance to direct and appear on "Strong Medicine."

The episode she directed aired in September, and the guest shot came on the medical drama's 100th episode in October. She played a uterine cancer patient who sues an insurance company for not including basic tests in their policies.

The 47-year-old Drescher, who survived the same kind of cancer, is a vocal advocate for women's health care and wrote the best sellers "Cancer Schmancer" and "Enter Winning.") So was the use and disruption of Drescher's home also in the reunion deal? Seems it was more about correctness than career.

"I stuck my foot in my mouth and said, 'Wait a minute.

Why don't we do it at my house?' never thinking it was going to be such an enormous undertaking," Drescher says. "But I'm an overachiever and if it was going to do this reunion show, it was very important to me that it be done correctly. That means being inventive, being original, making it better than the regular run-of-the-mill ones, having it be funnier."

She co-opted ex-husband Peter Jacobson, with whom she created the series, to direct. The lavish food was prepared by one of Wolfgang Puck's restaurants. The one thing she couldn't arrange was the weather, which lacked the sunset-over-the-sea that had been hoped for.

The cast members who attended included everyone but Daniel Davis (the butler) who was working out of town.

Drescher's parents, Morty and Sylvia Drescher, were there, her mother being a look-alike for Renee Taylor, who played Pine's mother, Sylvia.

The series included many familial incidents drawn from Drescher's real upbringing. "I tapped into a simpler time in my life surrounded by all the rich and wonderful characters I grew up with," says Drescher.

She describes Pine as "fun, funny, immature and sexy. Her life was much less complicated than mine and I really liked being in her skin everyday."

Charles Shaughnessy, who played Fine's boss and love interest, Maxwell Sheffield, says the series was a "blend of great slapstick — Fran is a wonderful physical comedian and obviously had studied Lucille Ball a lot — but it was also a very sweet, romantic comedy, and a fish-out-of-water story."

Drescher is getting back into sitcoms next year in a WB series currently titled "Shacking Up." She describes her character as "a sexy divorcee who's living with a man much, much younger — closer to her son's age."

But moving from Fran Fine in "The Nanny" to Fran Reeves in the new sitcom won't mean leaving behind the essentials that made Drescher famous.

"It's always more or less that larger-than-life persona. They wrap it in another story, but the audience kind of accepts it, because it's really me," she says, laughing, well, just like Fran.

YOUR MONEY

Car-related gift ideas

Dear Tom and Ray: It's getting to be that time of year again — time to wonder what to get my male relatives for Christmas. I'm sure I'll find the only female who is confronted with this dilemma every year. I thought you could provide some good ideas for holiday gifts that can actually locate AND afford to buy (e.g., \$25-\$200). Thanks!

—Diana
RAY: Hmm. I don't think plasma TVs have come down that far yet.

—TOM: Several ideas come to mind, Diana. One is an inexpensive scan tool. A scan tool is what you plug into the car's computer, and it gives you all kinds of fascinating diagnostic information.

RAY: Well, it'll be fascinating to those guys, anyway.

TOM: All cars built from 1996 on use a standard computer diagnostic system called OBD II. You can find several inexpensive OBD II scan tools on the market in the \$150-\$200 range. Best of all, since this is a diagnostic tool, it will provide your loved ones with wonderful excuses to then go out and buy even more expensive equipment with which to fix their vehicles' nagging problems.

RAY: Another idea is a rechargeable remote jump-starter. I've got one of these, and it works and it's great. It's smaller than a car battery, and fully encased in hard plastic. It has positive and negative battery cables attached to it, and you use it to jump-start your car when nobody else is around. You charge it up from a home outlet or from your cigarette lighter (BEFORE the

battery dies!) and then toss it in the trunk.

TOM: So, when you come out of Rocco's Adult Beverage and Exotic Female Dancer Theater in the morning and find that you left your lights on, you won't have to call your wife for a jump-start (and a dose sleep). These jumper packs will run you anywhere from \$50 to \$100, depending on how powerful the battery is. But even the basic ones will work pretty well, unless the battery is stone cold dead.

RAY: In the same price range, you can get someone a personal air pump and a car tire sealant. Next time he has a flat tire, instead of waiting for a tow truck or changing the tire himself while he sits there, he can pull out his air pump, toss in the sealant and let the tire back up in five or 10 minutes. Most of these devices pump air into the cigarette lighter or run off rechargeable batteries. And as an added bonus, he can use it to fill up his basketball, soccer ball or inflatable G-eri. Rivera punching bag.

TOM: And if you're a real cheapskate, there are always Car Talk gifts, like our CD collections of funny car sound bites and radio collections, like "Why You Should Never Listen to Your Father When It Comes to Cars." That will be a lot less (as you know, be!) And it's at www.shameless.commerce.com.

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Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES					
		High	Low	Net	% YTD
					52-wk
					52-wk
10,513.1	1,008.41	Dow Jones Industrials	10,508.32	+112.9	+1.1
3,665.6	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,738.79	+78.06	+2.1
252.9	259.69	Dow Jones Utilities	252.41	+3.8	+1.5
7,075.8	6,073.08	NYSE Composite	7,097.32	+91.50	+1.3
1,412.76	1,098.10	AMEX	1,413.81	+1.73	+0.1
1,250.82	950.36	Nasdaq Composite	1,238.22	+44.62	+3.6
1,186.86	1,053.41	S&P 500	1,191.37	+17.55	+1.5
481.4	348.29	Russell 2000	484.29	+64.00	+13.2
63,506	51,519	Russell 2000	64,639	+952	+1.5
10,344.15	9,100	Wall Street	11,755.57	+1,657.42	+15.2

NYSE					
		Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	
1,412.76	1,098.10	AMEX	1,413.81	+1.73	+0.1
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63,506	51,519	Russell 2000	64,639	+952	+1.5
10,344.15	9,100	Wall Street	11,755.57	+1,657.42	+15.2

Cell-phone rooms still allow for privacy, quiet

BY EMILY CHASAN

The Wall Street Journal

Kevin Boehm knows how cruel a cold Chicago night can be. So last year, when he saw a man squawking into a mobile phone outside a restaurant in 20 degree weather, he imagined a simple solution: a cell-phone booth.

"In five years, it could be completely passe to be at a table in a restaurant and not get up to use the cell-phone booth," says Boehm, who paid around \$3,500 to install a plain, brown and blue velvet-appointed booth at his own new restaurant, called BOKA.

A discreet note on the menu tells diners about the booth.

Just when many managers folks had given up on having a civilized dinner or library trip without overhearing other people's conversations, a simple solution seems to be calling. Phone companies have eliminated more than a half-century traditional pay phones in the past eight years, many of them in phone booths, according to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Now, some restaurants, libraries and other businesses are slowing bringing back the phone booth, sans phone this time. Users bring their own mobile phone and can talk as loud as they want without bothering anybody else, or being asked to step outside.

"There was reasoning behind the original telephone booth," says

Boehm, BOKA's co-owner. "This is just America catching up."

The quest for privacy drives 98 percent of Americans to go to another room or outside when talking on a cell phone, according to a Sprint Corp. survey released in July. Most want to use a restroom to make calls. But few things are more irritating than having to listen to the sound of toilets flushing during an important conversation, says Jacqueline Whitmore, Sprint's wireless-phone-etiquette spokeswoman; 77 percent of Sprint's survey respondents said they were subjected to such toilet gaffes.

"With cell phones, nothing seems to be private anymore," Whitmore says.

Many of the new cell-phone booths are part architectural whimsy. One way for restaurant owners to provide a point of retro focus in their dining rooms. Others have been added for pure necessity. Greg Pyne, owner of the Brooklyn Cafe in Sandy Springs, Ga., got the idea in early 2003 after he was waiting for an important call during dinner at another upscale restaurant in Atlanta. "I started spying around," Pyne recalls. "Where would I go if I got the call?"

The following week, he went to a local antique shop with a flat-bed truck and rented a 1,700-pound British red cast-iron telephone booth for \$200 a month. With no room inside his booth, he plopped it out front. Pyne doesn't charge to use his booth, which is sponsored by Sprint and has pens, paper and a picture of Alexander Graham Bell inside.

"It's kind of like having the low-carb option on your menu," he says. "We're giving them the option to be polite."

In Europe, where cell phone use is ubiquitous, a nascent industry has cropped up to make and promote modern cell-phone booths. Isomus Dekorative Ainitia AG, of Wiener Neudorf, Austria, is proposing that its laminate cladding booths could be used to make a cell-phone booth with retractable walls.

Antti Evavaara, a furniture designer in Orimattila, Finland, has sold hundreds of mobile-phone boxes for several thousand dollars.

The phenomenon isn't only for the chic restaurant set. At East Side Plating Inc., a metal-finishing plant in Portland, Ore., company President Gary Rhenberg asked Soundsuckers.com, a soundproofing company, to design an insulated box that could be attached to a desk or wall and isolate workers who take orders by cordless phone.

"I needed to deaden some sound, but I didn't necessarily want the way for resale," says Rhenberg. Now Soundsuckers sells about a dozen custom-made booths each year to factories and other high-decibel industrial environments.

Libraries also are welcoming the booths to preserve quiet in their reading rooms. The University of Maryland's Thurgood Marshall Law Library has eight British-style phone booths, four with conventional phones, four dedicated to voicemail calls. The booths provide privacy for students who are often discussing legal matters with local attorneys, says David Alexander Graham Bell in Manhattan, for example, has one adorned with padded leather, brass trim and a tiny chandelier from the original old hotel. Boxes like these can cost thousands of dollars, and offer a sense of nostalgia for a time when well-appointed booths were ubiquitous and sources of mystery and romance.

The latter is precisely what drew Mitchell Bain to the Baltimore Room's booth to keep the girlfriend. "You have to keep the 'I love you's' private," he says.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates			
British pound	\$1.3685		
Japanese yen (Dec. 3)	100.00		
South Korean won (Dec. 2)	1,007.00		
Commercial rates			
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37698		
British pound	\$1.363		
Canada (Dollar)	0.744		
Denmark (krone)	0.526		
French franc	0.122		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.1373		
Hungary (Forint)	162.75		
India (Rupee)	46.36		
Israel (Shekel)	1.436		
Japan (Yen)	100.00		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.29467		
Malaysia (Ringgit)	0.34		
Philippines (Peso)	56.12		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1.63		
South Korea (Won)	1,094.60		
Switzerland (Franc)	0.75		
Thailand (Baht)	1,416,000.00		
U.S. dollar	1.00		
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at the United States military exchange rates in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates, see purchasing British pounds in Germany, which is your local currency exchange facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference only. Buying currency. All figures are foreign exchange rates as of Dec. 2, 2004.)			

PRECIOUS METALS			
London close	\$447.60		
Silver	\$17.00		

INTEREST RATES			
Prime rate	5.00		
Discount rate	2.00		
Federal funds market rate	2.25		
3-month bill	2.23		
30-year bond	5.00		
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America			

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Tips for cutting fuel costs

BY NANCY DUNNAN

The cost of heating fuel is going up again this winter — by more than 25 percent, according to some experts.

Most utility companies publish energy savings suggestions. Check with yours by calling the consumer help line. Other offer cash to customers who install ef-

iciency equipment and weather stripping.

For a list of programs, check out the Web site of The Edison Electric Institute, the electric utilities trade group, at www.eei.org/wisewise.

Financial adviser, economist and security analyst Nancy Dunnan is the author of "How to Save \$5,000," she writes a weekly column for thelineinnews.com



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the low to mid 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy, with rain in the north. Highs in the upper 30s to mid 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the upper 50s to mid 60s.

France: North, mostly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the upper 40s. South, cloudy with rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms throughout the day. Highs in the low to mid 60s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy throughout the day, with areas of rain in the morning. Highs in the upper 30s to mid 40s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain and areas of snow in the morning. Highs in the mid 40s.

Hungary: Cloudy with isolated rain-showers. Highs in the upper 40s.

Northern Italy: Mostly Cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the low to mid 50s

Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the upper 60s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with areas of fog in the morning. Highs in the mid-50s

Norway: Southwest coast, mostly cloudy becoming cloudy with rain overnight. Highs in the low 40s. Inland, mostly cloudy becoming cloudy with snow overnight. Highs in the low 20s.

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with areas of rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms throughout the day. Highs in the 50s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the low to mid 60s.



AFRIC

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	82	65	Mogadishu	89	7
Dakar	83	71	Nairobi	77	6
Freetown	89	76	Rabat	64	5
Kinshasa	85	73	Tripoli	77	5

THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	45	37	Manila	87	74
Bahrain	71	55	Mexico City	74	48
Beijing	57	31	Montreal	28	14
Beirut	68	55	Riyadh	69	44
Bermuda	73	64	Rio de Jan	80	73
Caracas	87	74	Seoul	59	44
Helsinki	25	15	Soňa	61	44
Hong Kong	80	67	Sydney	70	64
Lisbon	57	45	Tokyo	59	55

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

[illegible][illegible]

MIDEAST

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at:
<https://ows.sembach.af.mil>
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

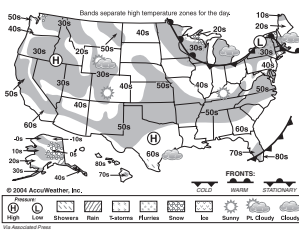
SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:51 AM	6:51 AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	8:06 AM	8:07 AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	4:56 PM	4:56 PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:25 PM	4:25 PM



THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



Scheduled to ETS or PCs?

Check our Relocation Guide
every Saturday to find
Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Horoscope

The moon void of course this morning contributes to the general mood of restlessness and anticipation of ... what? That sense of not knowing is both maddening and delicious. As long as we stay in the dark, whatever it is behind the proverbial door No. 3 becomes the projection of all our hopes. What are you wishing for?

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 3). Life is as fancy free as you allow it to be. Loved ones influence you in new ways — your interests are changing, and your relationships bloom with the shift. Get out of town, and take a well-deserved break next month. Luck comes from the people you meet on your journeys, especially water signs (Pisces, Scorpio and Cancer).

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Just when a situation starts to feel like it's taking over your life, a friend offers a chance for adventure. You remember adventure, right? Consider how many of the seven wonders of the world you've seen. Explore.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You usually can be counted on as the emotional rock, the stabilizing force, the one who soldiers on no matter what. So the effusively sentimental mood you're in today is seen as an anomaly and may amuse loved ones.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your role as "whistle-blower" is tough for you, as you are used to being liked by all sides. You'll be the one to spot the element of the plan (or the character involved) that is on the shaky side (if not downright indecent or dangerous).

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Bring plenty of initiative to the table. When you dare to want more, you're more likely to find a way to get more. Someone who knows the secret shortcuts is nearby. Turn up your instinct, and locate this person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The super volcano that is now Yellowstone devastated the Western Hemisphere.

sphere some 640,000 years ago. Now, it's the first and most fantastic national park. There's hope for that area of your life you currently think is a catastrophe.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You can't believe what you hear. Someone close may be trying to smirch a perceived rival by spreading false rumors. Sticking up for the underdog is just one of the ways you make a difference in this crazy world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Life is a game, and you are, in the hippest sense of the word, a player. A clever maneuver you make in the early part of a project gives you the edge that will keep you in the lead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes in life, as in chess, a pawn must be sacrificed in order to gain an attacking position. Be smart. Make sure you completely understand your role in a situation. See that the pawn isn't you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You relate your story well. In fact, you're such a witty teller of anecdotes that you'll be invited to see new places and get to know new people. It's fun to care for the non-verbal ways you communicate to the world, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll find yourself being reviewed in some way. Others shiver and shake under such circumstances, but you're as ready and cool as a Swiss Alps ski vacation. You coast your way into a beautiful offering.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have no time to waste. Then again, you have never considered taking a different route home or venturing into the unknown to be a waste of time! A field trip is featured, especially one that is short, direct and memorable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're not alone in what you believe, but your communication style is pretty unique. Finding people who relate to you is uncommon as of the day. A witty gambit opens a fascinating conversation.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



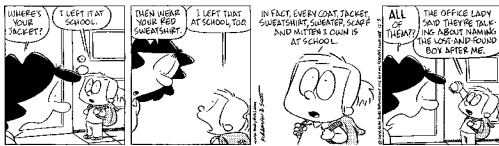
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



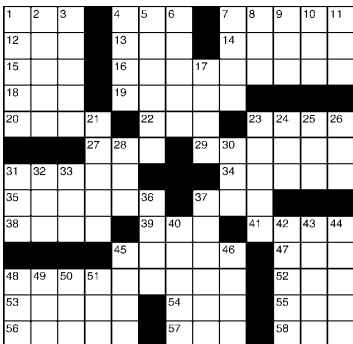
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Fool
4 Likely
7 Basketball play
12 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
13 Magnon precursor
14 Old-time marketplace
15 Verb in a limerick's first line
16 Attendance check
18 NYC hrs.
19 Borden mascot
20 Unwilling to listen
22 "Monty Python" opener
23 Section
27 Resistance unit
29 Warning signal
31 Quickly
34 Put up
35 Posh
37 Pouch
38 Temple U. team
39 Curmudgeonly cry
41 Session with a shrink
45 Desires
47 Guitar's kin
48 "You betcha!"
52 Greek cross
53 Sandy's mistress
54 New Haven collegian
55 Double curve
56 Milkmaid's burden

Down

- 1 Cut lumber
2 Humiliate
3 Trattoria selection
4 Dental distress
5 Bout before the main event
6 Raise a glass to
7 Chantilly, for one
8 Past
9 "Embraceable —"
10 Coffee vessel
11 Mr. Sajak
17 Intervetbral structure
21 Concentrate
23 Shrivel with heat
24 Pink slip
25 Sinbad's bird
26 Stick with a kick
28 Whammy
30 Calf-feed-teria
31 Big bother
32 Basilica bench
33 The whole enchilada
36 Longest wholly Spanish river
37 Woman, to an Aussie
40 Veep who resigned
42 Made public
43 Emperor's edit
44 Don't discard
45 Salt Lake squad
46 Use a teaspoon
48 Upper limit
49 — shoestring
50 One (Pref.)
51 Love, in a sense

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-3

CRYPTOQUIP

C ZRUWYI CM XCKKRJRV
SIY XJSQYW WLICUB
PLICKSUYYV. SMHYI SJJ.

HPYQ'IY PCBP ZCUWV.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A BUILDING WERE PRETTY, WITH IVY COVERING MUCH OF IT, IT WOULD BE SIMPLY DE-VINE!

Today's Cryptquip Clue: J equal L

Yankees back off pursuit of Big Unit

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees pulled out of trade talks for Randy Johnson on Wednesday, telling the Diamondbacks that their proposals for deals involving the five-time Cy Young Award winner were unreasonable, The Associated Press learned.

The Yankees informed Arizona of their decision Wednesday afternoon, ending weeks of discussions, a high-ranking baseball official told the AP on condition of anonymity.

While talks appear dead, they might not be over for good. But for now, the Yankees find Arizona's current asking price too high.

Earlier this week, according to the official New York press deal that would send the Diamondbacks right-hander Javier Vazquez, pitching prospect Brad Halsey, a top pitcher the Yankees would have to obtain from another team and a significant amount of money, believed to be \$12 million to \$13 million.

Arizona responded, the official said, by asking the Yankees for Vazquez, Halsey, setup man Tom Gordon and \$18.5 million — the difference between the \$17 million Johnson is due for the remain-



Briefs

ing year in his contract and the \$3.5 million Vazquez is owed in his deal, which has three seasons left.

Alternatively, the official said, the Diamondbacks told the Yankees they could remove Gordon from the deal and replace him with four prospects.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman did not return a telephone call seeking comment.

New York may now be at its attention to Pedro Martinez. Boston repeated Wednesday that it wants to re-sign the three-time Cy Young Award winner, who also has received an offer from the New York Mets. While Yankees owner George Steinbrenner met with Martinez last month, New York has not yet made an offer, the official said.

Lima ordered to pay woman \$500,000 for giving her STD

HOUSTON — A jury says Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Jose Lima must pay almost \$500,000 in damages to a woman who claimed she contracted genital herpes from him.

Attorneys for Lima, a former Houston Astros player, said Wednesday they plan to appeal the state court decision and that Lima was unaware he was infected until after his relationship with the 27-year-old woman ended.

Harris County jurors awarded the plaintiff \$475,000 in damages after hearing closing arguments Wednesday.

The woman's lawyers said she learned she was infected in February 2003, about a week after she had sex with Lima, and that the player never warned her that he had the disease.

Report: Notre Dame to meet with Notre Dame

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Notre Dame has contacted Utah coach Urban Meyer about his coaching vacancy and was to meet with him Thursday, The New York Times reported.

The school contacted Meyer, a former Notre Dame assistant,

on Wednesday, the newspaper reported, citing an unnamed source. The story did not say where the meeting would take place.

John Heiser, Notre Dame's associate athletic director, would not comment to The Associated Press or say if athletic director Kevin White was in South Bend.

Utah athletic director Chris Hill told the AP he wouldn't comment on the report, but that his school would attempt to keep Meyer, who helped make the Utes a high-profile team in just two seasons. This year, Utah is poised to become the first team from a mid-major conference to crack the Bowl Championship Series.

A message left with Meyer's assistant Thursday was not immediately returned.

Meyer was the receivers coach at Notre Dame during 1996-00, leaving the school for his first head coaching job at Bowling Green.

He quickly turned around the Falcons, going 8-3 and 9-3 before moving to Utah in 2003. The Utes were 10-2 last season and are 11-0 this season and ranked fifth in the nation.

Notre Dame fired Tyrone Will-

ingham as football coach on Tuesday after he posted a 21-15 record in three seasons.

Meyer received a contract extension last summer that included a clause allowing him to leave Utah without penalty if he is hired as head coach at Michigan, Ohio State or Notre Dame.

Appleby leads in S. Africa

SUN CITY, South Africa — Australia's Stuart Appleby shot a 2-under-par 70 Thursday but closed with bogeys on the final two holes, leaving him tied with three others for the first-round lead at the Nedbank Golf Challenge.

Appleby, whose round featured an eagle-3 on the 14th hole, shared the lead with England's Lee Westwood and South Africa's Ernie Els and Retief Goosen in the \$4.06 million event. They were a shot ahead of Chris DiMarco of the United States and Nick Price of Zimbabwe.

Defending champion Sergio Garcia of Spain finished at 75 while British Open champion Todd Hamilton of the United States had a 74.

Americans Jim Furyk (74), Jay Haas (75) and Chad Campbell (80) struggled while Price came back from a relatively inactive year to shoot 32 on the back nine for a 71.

NHL, union to resume negotiations

NEW YORK — The NHL accepted an invitation from the players' association on Thursday to return to the negotiating table in an effort to end the lockout that began nearly three months ago.

In a letter sent to NHL commissioner Gary Bettman on Thursday, players' association executive director Bob Goodenow proposed that the sides meet next week in Toronto and said the union is working on a new proposal.

No official talks have occurred since Sept. 9, when the union made its last offer. The lockout reached its 78th day Thursday.

"We look forward to meeting with the NHL Players' Association next week," said Bill Daly, the league's chief legal officer. "We are hopeful that the NHL's PA's offer will be a meaningful effort to address the league's economic problems. When we receive the proposal, we will evaluate it closely and respond appropriately."

The last offer by the NHLPA was a luxury tax-based deal that was rejected by the league, and the lockout began one week later. As of Thursday, 334 regular-season games, plus the 2005 Star game, have been wiped out.

The offer to resume talks came just hours before the league's general managers prepared to get an update from Bettman during a plenary meeting in New York.

The players' association said its new proposal should provide the basis for a new collective bargaining agreement.

Bettman has said that a luxury tax won't work for the 30 NHL teams, which he claims are losing money at a pace that makes it impossible for the league to survive under the current CBA. He is seeking "cost certainty" for the clubs, which the union says is tantamount to a salary cap — a solution it refuses to accept.

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Giambi: Trainer never implicated Bonds, others

GIAMBI, FROM BACK PAGE

"So I started to ask him: 'Hey, what are the things you're doing with Barry?' He's an incredible player. I want to still be able to work out at that age and keep playing." Giambi testified, ac-

cording to the Chronicle. "And that's how the conversation first started."

After returning to the United States, Anderson told Giambi he could provide him with performance-enhancing drugs and suggested he stop taking the steroid

Deca Durabolin that he obtained from the Las Vegas gym because it stays in the system too long, the paper reported. Giambi said he started using Deca Durabolin in 2001.

Giambi said Anderson never told him that Bonds used performance-enhancing drugs.

"You know, I assumed because he's Barry's trainer — you know, Barry — but he never said anything. This is what Barry's doing," Giambi testified. "He never gave up another name that he was dealing with or doing anything with."

Prosecutors confronted Giambi with a calendar seized from Anderson's home that detailed Giambi's schedule of drug use.

Giambi told grand jurors that he didn't notice a "huge difference" in his performance after starting to use the drugs, the newspaper reported.

Giambi came to spring training this year looking noticeably trimmer as baseball began a steroid-testing program that includ-

ed punishments for the first time. Asked in February whether he had ever taken performance-enhancing drugs, Giambi said: "Are you talking about steroids? No."

Giambi with the A's MVP in 2000 for Oakland and signed a \$120 million, seven-year free-agent contract with the Yankees after the 2001 season. He hit 155 homers from 1999-2002 and batted over .300 each season, but injuries slowed him down the last two years.

Battled with a balky knee, Giambi hit just .250 in 2003. Giambi batted .208 and played in only 80 games last season, missing time because of a tumor, which the New York Daily News reported was in his pituitary gland. Medical experts told the Chronicle that Clomid, a female fertility drug Giambi said he thought Anderson had given him, can exacerbate a tumor of the pituitary gland.

Giambi's younger brother, Jeremy, who last played in the majors with Boston in 2003, also testified that he used performance-enhancing drugs given to him by Anderson, according to the Chronicle.

Roddick key for U.S.

American meets Nadal in Davis Cup

BY STEPHEN WADE
The Associated Press

SEVILLE, Spain — Three months ago, Andy Roddick swept 18-year-old Rafael Nadal in a 6-3, 6-4 in the second round of the U.S. Open.

Don't expect it to be that easy when Roddick plays the Spaniard in the Davis Cup final Friday.

This time, the match is on clay. And Nadal will be cheered by an expected record crowd of 26,600 fans at Seville's Olympic Stadium.

"He has a lot of game," Roddick said. "He hits the ball a ton, he's very competitive and in an atmosphere like this he is going to get the crowd going."

Roddick and Nadal play the second singles match of the best-of-five series. Spain's top player, Carlos Moya, faces Mardy Fish in the opener Friday.

"Hopefully I am going to win my match and give him [Nadal] confidence going on the court leading 1-0," Moya said.

In Saturday's doubles, American twins Bob and Mike Bryan should have the edge over Nadal and Tommy Robredo. In Sunday's reverse singles, Moya is slated to face Roddick, followed by Nadal vs. Fish.

The lineups for Saturday and Sunday can be changed up until one hour before the matches.

Roddick is the key for the Americans as they bid for a 32nd Davis Cup title, and their first since 1995.

Nadal, meanwhile, is lined up to play three matches as Spain tries to win only its second Davis Cup.

"Was a surprise pick Thursday ahead of former No. 1-ranked and French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero."

"Certainly Roddick's favored," Nadal said. "He's No. 2 in the world and that's on any surface."

Nadal, a free-swinging left-hander, is Spain's lowest-ranked player at 51. But he's been a clutch Davis Cup star.

He was the youngest Davis Cup player in Spanish history, won the deciding fifth

match against the Czech Republic in February. As a late replacement for Moya, he won the clinching match in the semifinals against France.

"Of course I'm surprised to be picked," Nadal said. "I'm excited and of course, I feel nervous, as anybody would in this situation. Really, I wish there were going to be 10,000 more fans."

Ferrero has battled chickenpox and broken ribs in the worst season of his career. He's the only Spanish player back from the 2000 team that beat Australia.

"If I close my eyes, I want to see myself on the court on Sunday," Ferrero said.

Spain has won 11 straight Davis Cup matches at home. The last time the Americans played in Spain on clay was in 2000, when a team headed by Todd Martin was swamped 5-0. The Americans also lost in France 3-2 on clay two years ago in the semifinals.

The word [on clay] is not good, but it's a different team now," Roddick said. "Basically, it's up to Mardy and me to pick it up and really prove ourselves on clay."

Roddick is 12-0 against all members of the Spanish team, but only one win was on clay. He's 14-3 in the Davis Cup and hasn't lost a set this season.

Fish is 4-1 against all Spanish players, but four of those matches were on clay. He won the silver medal at the Athens Olympics and is 4-4 overall in the Davis Cup.

American reserve Vasek Spasieva is ranked 19th to Fish's No. 37, but was passed over by American captain Patrick McEnroe.

"He went with his gut feeling, and we'll see how the chips fall," Spasieva said.

Spasieva said he expected the matches to be "slow, slow, slow-motion."

"They have to be prepared to play 2½ hours. It's not going to happen," he said.

If Roddick wins twice, the Americans should take the title. The Bryan brothers are coming off a Masters Cup win in Houston, but they've yet to lose a set.



Southern Cal sophomore Reggie Bush is in contention to get Herschel Walker's Heisman Trophy vote. Walker is also considering Oklahoma freshmen Adrian Peterson and others.

Heisman voter Walker

says age no factor to him

BY JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Like many Heisman Trophy voters, Herschel Walker is waiting until after this weekend to fill out his ballot.

But the 1982 Heisman winner already has decided one thing: He couldn't care less that Oklahoma's Adrian Peterson is a freshman.

"This is for who you think is the best this year, not who has played the longest," Walker said. "Adrian Peterson is as qualified as anyone else."

Walker, Peterson and the Heisman have been discussed together quite often this fall because Peterson is having the biggest impact as a freshman since Walker burst onto the scene in 1980.

As great as Walker was that fall, he finished only third in the Heisman voting. No freshman — heck, not even a sophomore — has won it in part because of the argument that underclassmen haven't paid their dues yet.

"What does dues-paying have to do with winning the Heisman Trophy?" Walker asked. "It's not for what you did two or three years ago, it's for what you did this year. You're on the same field as the older guys, so why in the world should you not be able to win it just because you're young?"

Peterson and several other top Heisman challengers have one last chance Saturday to try swaying the 923 voters, including Walker and the other 51 living winners. The top-three picks are due Wednesday afternoon and the big announcement comes three nights later.

Walker has narrowed his choices to Peterson and his UT teammate, senior quarterback Jason White, last year's Heisman winner, Southern Cal junior quarterback Matt Leinart and sophomore running back Reggie Bush; and Texas senior running back Cedric Benson.

California quarterback Aaron Rodgers, Auburn quarterback Jason Campbell and Utah quarterback Alex Smith, all juniors, are also being considered by many voters.

Benson and Smith are the only ones among that group not playing this weekend. The rest have games with BCS berths and national championship hopes on the line, adding the kind of stakes voters take seriously.

Another undecided voter is one of the likely finalists, White.

He said this week his choices are "coming down to the wire," although he's indicated he'll go with Peterson.

"I have a pretty good idea who's been

playing well this year and definitely deserves to be on the ballot," said White, who would join Ohio State's Archie Griffin as the only two-time Heisman winners.

Freshmen were ineligible to play from 1958-72, helping fuel the pay-your-dues philosophy. Then Walker suited up for Georgia eight years later and began changing attitudes.

He ran for 1,616 yards and 15 touchdowns, both the most ever by a freshman, and had four 200-yard games. Oh, one more thing of note: He led the Bulldogs to a national championship.

But the Heisman went to South Carolina's George Rogers, who led the nation with 165 more yards than Walker. While Walker considers Rogers a worthy winner, he's still ranked about as well behind Pittsburgh defensive lineman Hugh Green.

Walker put up better stats as a sophomore, but was understandably second to Southern California's Marcus Allen, the first 2,000-yard rusher. Walker finally won as a junior, easily beating John Elway and Eric Dickerson.

"I still question if I should've won it that year," said Walker, who turned pro instead of returning as a senior. "I don't know if I won it or if they felt sorry and gave it to me."

While other players have been good straight out of high school, none have been as Walker-like as Peterson.

He has 1,688 yards through 11 games — 72 more in the same number of games as Walker — with 12 touchdowns. Both averaged 5.9 yards per carry, with Peterson leading the nation in attempts.

And he didn't even start five games. Peterson still ran for at least 100 yards in his first nine, with the streak ending mainly because of a dislocated left shoulder. He's topped 200 three times, including two of the Sooners' toughest games: a showdown against Benson and rival Texas, and against another rival, Oklahoma State.

Next up is the Big 12 championship Saturday against Colorado. A win likely puts Oklahoma into the BCS national title game, which would give Peterson yet another chance to match Walker.

With 176 yards against the Buffaloes, Peterson would break the freshman rushing record held by Wisconsin's Ron Dayne. Dayne took it from Walker, but was an afterthought in the Heisman voting that year.

Other standout freshmen who were ignored include Pittsburgh's Tony Dorsett (then-record 1,586 yards) in 1973 and San Diego State's Marshall Faulk (23 total touchdowns) in 1991.

New system for Ryder Cup

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

The PGA of America revamped its system Thursday for qualifying for the Ryder Cup team, giving additional points for winning and quadrupling the points awarded during the year the matches are played.

It was the first major change in the U.S. points system since 1993, when more emphasis was placed on the majors.

The PGA came under pressure to alter the way the U.S. team is selected after the Americans sustained their worst loss to Europe, 18½-9½, in September at Oakland Hills.

"You do the best you can to get the best players," PGA president Roger Warren said. "They have to play better than the other team. We wouldn't be looking at the process if we had been more successful."

Europe has captured the Ryder Cup seven of the last 10 times.

The U.S. team had only five 2004 winners out of 12 players at Oakland Hills. Among those who failed to qualify was Todd Hamilton, a 38-year-old rookie whose two victories included the British Open, where he went the final 40 holes against Ernie Els before beating him in a playoff.

PGA officials have complained that the system was not current and included too many players no longer at the peak of their games.

"The new system rewards the game's hottest players, as well as many players who have won events in the year of the matches," Warren said.

The next Ryder Cup will be in 2006 at the K Club in Ireland.

PGA Tour victories at the end of 2004 and all of 2005 will be worth 75 points, with points awarded down to 10th place. That's how it was under the old system.

The big change comes in 2006, when PGA Tour victories are worth 375 points. Previously, regular tour victories during a Ryder Cup year were worth only 150 points. Points for PGA Tour events, from first place to 10th, will be worth four times as much during Ryder Cup years, with an extra 75 points for winning.

The biggest change is in the major championships.

A major victory in 2005 will be worth 450 points (up from 225), while 10th place will earn 25 points. Majors in 2006 will be worth 675 points (up from 300), with 10th place worth 40 points.

Chris Riley earned the last spot on the Ryder Cup team this year with 576.786 points. "We're comfortable with where we are," Warren said. "But we'll continue to evaluate it. This isn't a final decision, but it's a decision for the 2006 Ryder Cup."

Warren said he expects to change the 2006 PGA Championship. The top 10 players make the team, and captain Tom Lehman will pick two other players.

No. 1 Wake falls with a thud

Illinois makes it look easy; Syracuse, Carolina roll

The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Roger Powell Jr. scored 19 points, Dee Brown and Luther Head added 16 each and No. 5 Illinois made Wake Forest look more like a non-conference patsy than the top-ranked team in the country in a 91-73 rout Wednesday night.

The Illini (5-0) led by double digits for the last 28-plus minutes of the game, and were up by as much as 32 in the second half. With 8:34 still to play, the "Orange Krush" student section broke into chants of "Overrated!" In the final minutes of the game, there were chants of "We're No. 1!"

Illinois has won 35 straight at home against nonconference opponents, a streak dating to Nov. 17, 1995. The Illini are 66-3 overall at Assembly Hall since the 2000-01 season.

Wake Forest (5-1), which climbed to No. 1 for the first time in school history, was held to 39 percent shooting, and its two best players weren't a factor.

Chris Paul, the leading vote-getter on the AP's preseason All-America team, had 10 points and Justin Gray, MVP of the Pre-season NIT, had 11. Eric Williams, the other member of Wake Forest's big three, had 18 on 7-for-13 shooting.

No. 3 Syracuse 91, St. Bonaventure 67: At Syracuse, N.Y., Hakim Warrick had 18 points and 11 rebounds and Josh Boone added 14 points and 10 rebounds for Syracuse (6-0), which got its 30th straight victory over teams from New York state and the Big East (4-1) to their 21st straight rout loss.

Gerry McNamara had 17 points and Darryl Watkins 12 for

Men's Top 25 Roundup

Syracuse. Billy Edelin had four points and three assists in his return to the lineup after leaving the team in the middle of last season for personal reasons.

Wade Dunston led the Bonnies with 17 points.

No. 9 North Carolina 70, Indiana 63: At Bloomington, Ind., Rashad McCants scored 19 points and Raymond Felton 18 to lead the Tar Heels (5-1) to their fifth straight victory.

Indiana (2-1) was led by Bracey Wright with 18 points and Robert Vaden with 16 points and nine rebounds.

Indiana fans were not kind to North Carolina's Sean May, a former Indiana Mr. Basketball and the son of Indiana All-American Scott May. He was booted during warmups and one fan had a sign taken away that read "Sean May Traitor." Five fans wore shirts that spelled out the phrase "May you must be adopted," and the boos and chants intensified throughout the game as May struggled. He missed five of seven shots and finished with eight points, all in the second half.

No. 13 Pittsburgh 65, St. Francis, Pa. 41: At Pittsburgh, Chevonn Troutman led a decisive 17-2 run late in the first half and scored 22 points as Pittsburgh improved to 28-0 in games against St. Francis.

Troutman made four free throws and Antonio Graves, Carl Knepper and Ronald Brown each had three points during the run, which pushed Pitt (4-0) from a 17-all tie into a 34-19 lead.

Gonzaga 99, No. 14 Washington 97: At Spokane, Wash., Adam Morrison scored 26 points and Ronny Turiaf had 25 points and 13 rebounds as Gonzaga (4-1) won its seventh straight over Washington.

Nate Robinson led Washington (4-1) with 22 points, including four three-pointers.

Gonzaga led from the opening tip, and pulled away from a 59-41 tie with 13 minutes remaining. Three-pointers by Derek Raivio and Morrison helped Gonzaga build a 92-82 lead with 2:25 to play.

Jamaal Williams had 18 points for Washington.

No. 22 Alabama 114, East Tennessee 77: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Earnest Shelton scored 24 points and Ronald Steele led the school-record 18 assists for Alabama.

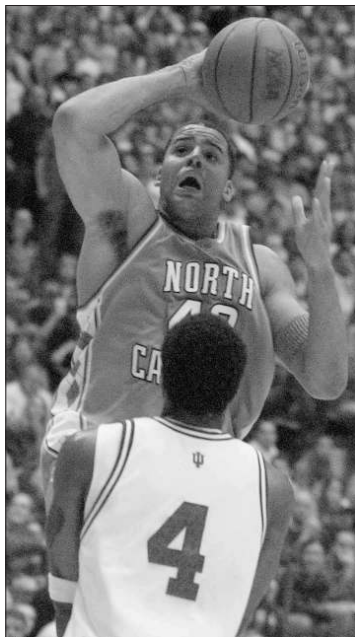
Shelton was 6-for-11 from three-point range, and the Crimson Tide (5-1) shot 19-for-41 from behind the arc — breaking the school record of 16 set in 1996 against Mercer.

Kennedy Winston added 21 points and 10 rebounds. Steele broke the school assist record of 16 and Alabama's 30 also was a school record.

Dillon Speed had 30 points and Tim Smith added 24 for East Tennessee (2-3).

No. 24 Virginia 48, Northwest 41: At Evanston, Ill., Elton Brown had 15 points and 12 rebounds, including the first eight points of the game, as the Cavaliers (5-0) held their fifth straight opponent to 40 points or less.

Northern Iowa (1-4) had its worst record since 1999-2000, when it opened with the same record.



Sean May, a former Indiana high school Mr. Basketball, had a nightmare game in his first trip back to the state as a player for North Carolina. He struggled through a scoreless first half and here commits a charging foul. He did have the consolation of a 70-63 win over Indiana.

Army's Ross answers the (bugle) call to duty

HEARD the haunting echo of it, like a bugle call from his past, pulling at him, pulling him back to an earlier time, when he was a cavalryman, in the Third Army Regiment.

He heard it sitting there in their kitchen that night, heard it from his wife, Alice, heard her use those words that forever reverberated at the Point.

Duty. Honor. Country. You have, she told him, a duty to do this. A patriotic duty. All the losing, it's demoralizing. Especially the troops serving in harm's way.

"It kind of hit me," Bobby Ross said.

"They've been married more than 40 years. She hasn't steered him wrong very often.

So Bobby Ross, whose unbil-

cal has been tethered to the military much of his life, took the job last December. Head football coach, United States Military Academy, West Point.

He was 67. He had been retired three years. He had immersed himself in volunteer work and in their 15 grandchildren. He thought he was rid of football, after a lifetime of it. He had applied at a couple of schools and had been rejected, and they'd been polite enough about it, but he was pretty sure of the why of the rejections: He was too old.

So he resigned himself and placed his hands deep into the house-do-ir, the chores and errands that Alice kept for him to make sure he kept busy. He thought he had adjusted, adapted, he thought he was fine.

And then that bugle call, irresistible, the haunting echoes, calling to him — another chance to "see a lot of ways. I think we're the true American's Team," he said. "All three of us, the academics."

And so they are in a way, even more so in uncertain times like these, and so what has befallen

Army football in recent years has been especially wrenching — the first major program to lose 13 games in a season, no winning season, the last nine, a two-season record of 1-24 coming into 2004.

All that persistent losing had become a habit. The players had been beaten down. The first change Bobby Ross had to make was to break the cycle, reverse the mind-set.

"Just being competitive, that's not enough," he told them. "Keeping the score close, that's not the answer. I despise losing. I'm not very good at it."

Ross hasn't had to endure much of it, college or pro. He produced winners at Maryland and at Georgia Tech, including a shared national championship. He produced winners at San Diego, including a Super Bowl berth, and at Detroit.

Nine games into the 2000 NFL season, he resigned. It wasn't because he suddenly stopped loving football, or was burned out.

No, it was blood clots, in both legs, and the family history was gnawing at his father had been legs amputated because of clots.

In time, Ross healed. But the

thrill of the hunt, the competing, that still gnawed at him. That was the one thing he couldn't find a substitute for in retirement.

So when The Point called — He graduated from Virginia Military Institute. He coached there a year. He coached The Citadel. He spent three years in the Army. One of his sons graduated from the Naval Academy, another from the Air Force Academy. The bugle call is a theme song for the Ross family.

"I have a deep appreciation of what West Point stands for," he said, "and a deep respect for it. The history, the tradition, it's a very inspiring place to be."

He is a patriot coaching patriots, but love of country and sense of obligation, by themselves, don't win football games. The first four games of this year were no different. The losing streak reached 19 in a row. And then, Oct. 9, Army 48, Cincinnati 29.

Next thing he knew, Bobby Ross was being hoisted aloft, carried off on the shoulders of players who one day, and soon, may find themselves half a world away, in a desert firefright.

The e-mail and the snail mail

and the phone calls inundated the coach and the Cadets, much of it from Iraq and from Afghanistan, from troops with something to cheer about. Army followed up with another victory the very next week. Now, the Navy game beckons and the stack of mail and messages on the desk of Bobby Ross is, he assures, a foot and a half high. At least.

The perspective is never lost. Values are never diminished.

Football matters, yes, but they all know what might await them. On display in the Army locker room is an American flag that was flown during a skirmish in Afghanistan in which three American patriots perished. Army is 2-5. Navy is 8-2. Not so long ago, Navy couldn't win a game. In that example, then, is inspiration for Army. And the history of Bobby Ross, the Virginian with the soft drawl and the set jaw, is to revive and restore.

"We've just started climbing that mountain," he said.

But all the way up, they can hear the echo of the bugle call.

Bill Lyon is a columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Fourth-down failure still haunting Packers

Green Bay motivated in return to Philadelphia

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — So much of the Green Bay Packers' season has been predicated on fixing what went wrong on their infamous fourth-and-26 failure in Philadelphia.

After that flop cost them a chance to play in the NFC championship, Mike Sherman shuffled his coaching staff and secondary. Bob Slowik, who was promoted to defensive coordinator after Ed Donatelli was fired, brought an aggressive, blitzing mentality.

Yet, some players insist redemption isn't on the agenda Sunday when the Packers (7-4) return to Philadelphia to put their six-game winning streak on the line against the Eagles (10-1).

"We're motivated by winning," cornerback Al Harris said. "Last year is last year. We're living in the present. That game is behind us."

That's exactly the kind of talk Sherman wants to hear.

"You can't go back and undo what's done," Sherman said. "Now, when we hit the field and we go to the Philly stadium and we walk out of the locker room will there be a little something extra in their gut? I hope so, you know? I hope so."

But as far as our preparation is concerned, I mean, it's totally focused on what we're trying to accomplish this year. We had our



The fourth-down debacle in last year's playoff loss to the Eagles prompted changes to the Packers defense.

opportunity last year and we didn't take advantage of it and we have an opportunity to play a very good Philadelphia team this year, which we hope to take advantage of."

Nevertheless, the loss still stings.

"It's one of those games we looked forward to once we saw the schedule," safety Darren Sharper said. "The main thing is if we get in that position again, I know we're going to execute whatever the call is a lot better and guys will be prepared to not let that happen again. So, you can use it as a learning tool."

"But I think more we want to avenge the loss that we had up there because we were so close and really, truly, honestly, we thought we outplayed them and we didn't come away with the victory."

Linebacker Hannibal Navies might have put it best: "It doesn't hurt us, but it's definitely not forgotten."

Actually, the Packers haven't been able to get fourth-and-26 off their minds.

The coaching staff spent countless hours dissecting what went wrong on that fateful down and distance, when Philadelphia's

Freddie Mitchell caught a 28-yard pass from Donovan McNabb that led to a tying field goal. The Packers never spent much time on fourth-and-long situations at practice, focusing instead on third downs and stopping fourth-and-short runs.

Not anymore. Slowik made the fourth-down failure in Philly a big part of his curriculum this season.

And fans haven't forgotten, either.

One follower addressed his agony by putting "4th 26" on his gold Packers vanity license plates — "4th N 26" was already taken

— sort of like keeping a photo of an old girlfriend to remind him of the heartbreak.

Another bought a billboard a few miles from Lambeau Field lamenting the Philadelphia flop.

They might be disappointed to hear the Packers talk about forgetting and moving on.

"There shouldn't be any revenge," quarterback Brett Favre said. "That should never cross our minds. They made the plays, we didn't. To say, they ended our season, so we owe them one, that's untrue. We have to win this football game for a lot of reasons, we just didn't play better than them last year."

On fourth-and-26 in the closing minutes, the Packers lined up with three defensive linemen, two linebackers and six defensive backs. Cornerbacks Mike McKenzie (now with the Saints) and Al Harris and safeties Sharper and Marques Anderson (now with the Raiders) were in a four-across coverage, each responsible for one quarter of the field 25 yards from the line of scrimmage.

Sharper and Anderson inexplicably lined up behind the first-down marker, rendering their tackle of Mitchell too late. Also, rookie middle linebacker Nick Barnett stayed shallow with the tight end rather than drop back deep into the middle of the field.

Had Barnett been in position a few yards deeper, McNabb would have had to lob the ball over him and either of the safeties might have intercepted it or knocked it down and the Packers could have run out the clock and headed to Carolina for a shot at the Super Bowl.

Barnett didn't want to harp on the blown opportunity Wednesday.

"This year is this year. This game is this game," he said. "We can't think about the past. We've got to focus on the present."

Browns relieved, optimistic after Davis

BY JOE MILICIA
The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — With music blaring in the suddenly upped Cleveland locker room, Browns defensive end Kenard Lang and other players called coach Butch Davis' resignation a welcome change.

"Everybody is refreshed. We've got a new beginning," Lang said Wednesday.

Interim coach Terry Robiskie began his tenure with an emotional speech.

"All I said was I want every guy in here, if you believe you're a leader, stand up," Robiskie said. "About 25 guys stood up... and then I told them, 'If you're a leader grab a guy who you think will follow you and let's go to work.'"

Players said Robiskie's talk stirred them and led to a spirited practice session.

"It's a lot better feeling coming in to work every day," Lang said. "Everybody mentally feels a whole lot better right now."

The Browns plays host to the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots (10-1) Sunday afternoon.

Davis resigned Tuesday, leaving the last-place Browns (3-8) in disarray with five games left this season. He declined to

speak to the Cleveland media, but told Sports Illustrated that the pressure to win was so intense it was "suffocating."

"Every game was desperate," Davis said. "Every third down was desperate. The players felt it so much they were almost playing paralytic."

He also said that the team had been upset with him ever since he dumped players in a salary-cap purge after their 2002 playoff season.

Cornback Daylon McCutcheon didn't want to respond Davis' parting shots.

"He resigned and we're going to move on. His opinion is his opinion. For me, I didn't want to even listen to it," McCutcheon said.

Davis also acknowledged to Sports Illustrated that he had team employees who would monitor locker-room gossip for him.

If Davis has anybody left reporting back to him, he won't hear much sympathy.

"Guys come and go in this business. He's leaving with a big old bank account," said Little, referring to the \$12 million Davis will receive for the three years left on his contract. "Nobody's going to feel sorry for Coach Davis or anything like that."

Davis told Sports Illustrated that health concerns contributed to his resignation

and that he's going to take a year off from coaching.

The 53-year-old coach said that just four hours before the Browns lost 58-48 in Cincinnati last Sunday he had a panic attack.

Davis declined taking medication but was afraid he was going to have another episode on the field.

"Butch told me categorically flat out that he will not coach anywhere in 2005," Sports Illustrated's Peter King said on HBO's Inside the NFL. "He told me, Look, I need to get my health back."

I've gained 25 pounds since I walked off the Miami campus four years ago. I don't exercise. I eat crummy. I'm a mess. I need to go and fix my personal health life."

Davis' agent, Marvin Demoff, did not return a phone message from the AP seeking comment.

Safety Robert Griffith said when he joined the Browns in Davis' second season, he didn't notice a strain between the coach and the players, but it later became evident.

"I don't think guys were able to relate to him in a way that was positive for them to get their job done for whatever reason, and most of these guys are Butch's guys, so I don't know what the disconnect was," Griffith said.



Browns defender Kenard Lang says the team is refreshed. "We've got a new beginning," without Davis, he said.

Little wouldn't go as far as saying the Browns had lost faith in Davis.

"I'm just happy that we have coach Robiskie. That's the best way that I can answer that," he said. "We have to be there and play for ourselves. We want this to be for us. We also know that we're going to run through a wall for Terry Robiskie."

Williams rejects deal to come back in '05

Former Dolphins RB still fighting team's breach of contract lawsuit

BY TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Ricky Williams rejected a deal that would have allowed him to serve a four-game drug suspension this season and return to the NFL next year.

"Ricky indicated to me that he is no longer interested in resuming his career at this time," Williams' lawyer, David Cornwell, said in a statement e-mailed to The Associated Press on Thursday.

The 1998 Heisman Trophy winner needed to let the league know by Thursday so he could be moved from the retired list to the suspended list by the deadline. He would have served the suspension for the Miami Dolphins' final 12 games, starting Dec. 12 at Denver.

"David Cornwell informed our office that Ricky Williams has declined to accept the terms of his reinstatement," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Dolphins spokesman Harvey Greene would not comment, saying the matter is between Williams and the NFL.

Williams, 27, stunned his team by retiring shortly before Miami opened training camp in July. The Dolphins filed a lawsuit in federal court against the running back, seeking the \$8.6 million an arbitrator ruled he owes the team for breaching his contract.

Williams is fighting the decision.

He is now enrolled in a 17-month course at the California College of Ayurveda in Grass Valley, Calif., studying holistic medicine.

The talks to allow Williams back into the league involved a promise to return to the field next season and to re-enter the NFL drug program immediately, including being tested on a regular basis.

"The NFL sought assurances

Former Miami Dolphins running back Ricky Williams could have served a four-game drug suspension this season and returned to the NFL next year.

that Ricky is indeed committed to playing," Cornwell said.

Williams gave up the \$5 million he would have earned this season, which would have been his sixth in the NFL, amid reports he faced suspension for substance abuse.

He rushed for 3,225 yards in two seasons with the Dolphins, including a league-leading 1,853 yards in 2002. Miami acquired him from New Orleans after the 2001 season.

But without Williams, the Dolphins have gone into a tailspin.

They're 2-9 and will finish with a losing record for the first time since 1988.

Williams has social-anxiety disorder and was a spokesman for an anti-depressant. He said marijuana helped him after he stopped using the anti-depressant.

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. See Page 24 for complete injury report provided by the league.

Raiders: RB Tyrone Wheatley (torn left hamstring) will likely miss two to three weeks.

Giants: RB Tiki Barber (stitches in knee) was held out of practice Wednesday but is expected to play Sunday against Washington.

Chiefs: QB Trent Green (sore ribs) missed practice Wednesday and remains questionable for Sunday's game at Oakland.

Packers: RB Ahmad Green (bruised ribs) practiced Wednesday and is expected to play Sunday at Philadelphia.

Briefs

He's also very dedicated."

Croom carried 10 times for only 25 yards in last week's 13-3 loss to the New York Jets. Arizona managed just 71 yards rushing in the game.

But Croom, who had played almost exclusively on special teams before Hambrick was hurt, said at least he got a taste of what it's like to carry the ball in the NFL.

"There were some mistakes I made that I've got a chance to correct by looking at film," he said. "If I didn't play, I wouldn't have a chance to make up for those mistakes."

Croom started his collegiate career down the road at the University of Arizona, where he rushed for 257 yards and a touchdown as a redshirt freshman in 2000.

Arizona coach Dick Tomey was fired after that season, and Croom decided to transfer to UNLV after the following spring practice under coach John Mackovic.

Croom joined coach John Robinson at UNLV, and after sitting out a season under NCAA rules, rushed for 605 yards as a junior and 932 yards as a senior.

If Croom starts, he will be the fourth rookie in Arizona's offensive lineup. John Navarre will make his NFL debut at quarter-

back, taking snaps from rookie center Alex Stepanovich. The fourth rookie is wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald.

Browns QB McDown ready if Garcia and Holcomb out

BEREA, Ohio — Kelly Holcomb's cracked ribs and Jeff Garcia's sore shoulder could leave rookie Luke McDown as Cleveland's only option at quarterback against New England on Sunday.

Holcomb suffered three cracked ribs in the Browns' 58-48 loss to Cincinnati last Sunday, his first start of the season.

Holcomb has not ruled out playing against the Patriots, and along with Garcia is listed as questionable. Garcia sprained the rotator cuff in his right shoulder on Nov. 21 against the New York Jets.

Browns interim coach Terry Robiskie said both quarterbacks will be re-evaluated Thursday. Neither practiced Wednesday.

Grizzlies hire Fratello to replace ailing Brown

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Mike Fratello was hired as coach of the Memphis Grizzlies on Thursday as a replacement for Hubie Brown, who unexpectedly retired last week for health reasons.

Fratello coached the Atlanta Hawks for eight seasons and the Cleveland Cavaliers for six. He will be the Grizzlies' seventh head coach.

"Today is the beginning of a new day for all of us," Grizzlies President Jerry West said. "We want to get back to where we feel good about ourselves."

Fratello, 71, was coach of the year last season after leading the team to its first playoff appearance. He cited unspecified health reasons when he retired last week.

"I am inheriting a team that knows organization, that knows discipline and plays unselfishly," Fratello said. "That is a great head start."

The Grizzlies have lost four straight since Brown retired and assistant coach Lionel Hollins was appointed interim coach. Hollins will stay as an assistant coach. Fratello also said former Golden State Warriors coach Eric Musselwhite would join his staff as an assistant.

Fratello's overall NBA record is 592-499, including 20-34 in the playoffs. He was an assistant under Brown for four seasons in Atlanta (1978-81) and one season in New York (1983-85). He replaced Brown as interim coach of the Hawks for three games in 1981.

Nuggets' White pleads guilty to firearms charges

DENVER — Denver Nuggets forward Rodney White pleaded guilty to two weapons charges and agreed to 100 hours of community service to have a three charge dropped.

White pleaded guilty Tuesday in Washington to charges of possession of a weapon without a permit and unregistered ammunition.

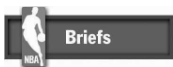
Prosecutors agreed to dismiss a charge of carrying a pistol without a license if White completes his community service in Washington on Sept. 5 for allegedly shooting randomly into the air.

"This has been a tough time for me, my team and my family," White said in a statement. "I sincerely apologize for what I have done and look forward to having this matter placed behind me."

Two banned from Palace for alleged involvement in brawl

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Two men were banned from events at The Palace for what the Detroit Pistons say is their involvement in last month's NBA brawl.

John Green and Charlie Haddad were sent letters informing them of the ban, which includes events at DTE Energy Music Theatre in Clarkston, Pistons spokesman Matt Dobek said



Briefs

Wednesday. The Clarkson site is another holding of the Palace Sports and Entertainment organization.

Apart from Pistons games, the Palace hosts figure skating competitions and concerts. The DTE Energy Music Theatre holds concerts.

Green, of Oakland County's West Bloomfield Township, is accused of lobbing a cup at Indiana Pacers forward Ron Artest on Nov. 19, sparking the brawl. Haddad, of Burt, ran onto the court that night, Dobek said.

"They're completely picking on the little guy," Shawn Smith, Green's lawyer, said Wednesday.

The brawl spilled into the stands and led to three Indiana players being suspended for 25 or more games, including a season-long ban for Artest.

There is no telephone listing for Haddad.

No criminal charges have been filed in the brawl, Oakland County prosecutor David Gorycay said Tuesday police must finish their investigation first.

Gorycay had told The Detroit News that Paces players will be charged, but declined to specify the players or charges.

Friend faces drug charge over pot found in Anthony's bag

DENVER — Prosecutors filed a drug charge Wednesday against a friend of NBA star Carmelo Anthony who said he accidentally left marijuana in the friend's backpack before it was found during an airport luggage search.

James Cunningham of St. Louis faces a charge of possessing less than one ounce of marijuana. If convicted, he could be fined \$100 but would face no jail time.

Prosecutors originally filed the same charge against Anthony after he said in a statement in his back on Oct. 15 while he and his Denver Nuggets teammates were waiting to board a flight to Milwaukee for an exhibition game.

The charge was dropped two weeks ago after Cunningham signed an affidavit saying he borrowed the backpack without Anthony's knowledge and left the marijuana in it.

Magic place F Garrity on injured list, activate Augmon

ORLANDO, Fla. — Orlando Magic forward Pat Garrity went on the injured list with a sprained left foot, and Stacey Augmon was activated to fill the roster spot before Wednesday night's game against Toronto.

Garrity, a three-point specialist, was hurt during Orlando's loss to Boston on Monday night. He's averaging 7.1 points, lowest since his rookie season, and is shooting a career-worst 31 percent on three-pointers.

Augmon had three points and seven rebounds in seven games before going on the injured list Nov. 20 with tendinitis in his left knee.

Undrafted rookie RB Croom prepared to start for Cards

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — If Emmitt Smith can't go on Sunday in Detroit, undrafted rookie Larry Croom will start at running back for the Arizona Cardinals.

The former UNLV back is humble about the opportunity.

"It's definitely a blessing," Croom said. "I didn't expect it, especially not this year. Coach Wilson (running backs coach Kirby Wilson) always told me to keep working hard and you never know what will happen."

Coach Dennis Green had declared Smith out of Sunday's game with a sprained left big toe. Smith said he practiced Wednesday, but was listed as questionable, which is supposed to mean there's a 50-50 chance he can play Sunday.

"He has an amazing ability to heal," Green said, "so we'll see."

Green called Smith one of the most resilient players he has coached.

"Emmitt really goes hard at the rehab aspect of it," Green said. "Some of the very best players seem to have a body type, a healing capability, that they can play with a lot of pain and can get back to the field very quickly."

Croom has moved ahead of Josh Scobey on the depth chart to become Smith's backup after Troy Hambrick was torn for the season with a torn foot ligament.

"He's a very quick player," Green said of Croom. "His shiftiness is pretty obvious every time he touches the football."

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SPORTS



Grizzlies hire Fratello
to take over for
Brown, Page 29

Illinois leaves Wake behind



Illinois' Fred Nkemdi guards Wake Forest's Richard Joyce (23) late in the second half at Assembly Hall in Champaign, Ill., on Wednesday. No 5 Illinois beat No. 1 Wake Forest 91-73. See story on Page 27.

Paper: Giambi testified he used steroids

Yankee told grand jury drugs came from Bonds' trainer

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — New York Yankees slugger Jason Giambi injected himself with human growth hormone in 2003 and used steroids for at least three seasons, according to his grand jury testimony that was reviewed by the San Francisco Chronicle.

The testimony given in December 2003 to the federal grand jury investigating BALCO contradicts Giambi's public proclamations that he never used performance-enhancing drugs.

Baseball probably cannot punish Giambi. Penalties for steroid use began in 2004. Human growth hormone, or hGH, is not specifically banned by the major leagues.

Giambi described to grand jurors how he injected hGH in his stomach, testosterone into his buttocks, rubbed an undetectable steroid known as "the cream" on his body and placed drops of another, called "the clear," under his tongue, the Chronicle reported Thursday.

Giambi testified that he obtained several different steroids from Barry Bonds' personal trainer, Greg Anderson, one of four men indicted by the grand jury probing the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative. He said he got the hGH from a gym in Las Vegas.

Anderson's attorney, Tony Serra, declined comment to the Chronicle, citing a court order.

Anderson, BALCO founder Victor Conte, BALCO vice president James Valente and track coach Remi Korchenyuk all have pleaded not guilty to the charges, which include steroid distribution.

The Chronicle report came out the day before Conte is scheduled to speak on the ABC program "20-20."

On Wednesday, a federal judge refused to immediately dismiss the charges in response to accusations that prosecutors illegally searched BALCO headquarters and Anderson's house and car. U.S. District Judge Susan Illston said she may conduct hearings into the matter in January.

Giambi was among dozens of elite athletes — including Bonds, Gary Sheffield and track stars Tim Montgomery and Marion Jones — who testified before the grand jury last year under a promise of limited immunity from prosecution.

Bonds, Jones and Montgomery deny using performance-enhancing drugs. Sheffield told Sports Illustrated and ESPN he used "the cream" and "the clear" from BALCO, but that he did not know they contained steroids.

Giambi met Anderson when the trainer joined Bonds on an All-Star tour in Japan in November 2002. Giambi said he wanted to know what Bonds' secret for success was.

SEE GIAMBI ON PAGE 25

Suns improve
league's best
record with
ninth straight
victory

Page 30



Williams turns
down deal that
would have let
him return
to NFL next
season

Page 29



Report:
Notre Dame
set to meet
with Utah's Meyer
about coaching
vacancy

Page 25